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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH, 2013

**Christmas
dining feature**
Pages 20 and 21

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**Reunion for Barry
Girls' School**
Page 26

Owen bound for Rio in 'Round World' yacht race



OWEN JONES.

A Barry man is
taking part in the
'Clipper Round
the World Yacht
Race' - to raise
funds for Cancer
Research UK.

Owen Jones, aged
37, a former pupil at St
Richard Gwyn High
School, had no sailing
experience when he
signed up for the adventure on the high seas
last August, but quickly
began training for this

year's challenge.

Owen, a manager
with Lloyds banking
group, is hoping to raise
money for the cancer
research charity.

He is sailing on one
of 12 70ft ocean racing
yachts. The event is the
longest distance ocean
race in the yachting calendar.

The scoring system is
similar to Formula One
- teams are awarded
points for each leg of
the voyage.

Owen is on the yacht
Great Britain as chief
of staff.

Owen's mother
Rachel said: "They set
sail from St. Katherine
Docks, London on
September 1, and are
due back on July 12,
2014.

"The first leg was to
Brest, and Owen and
his fellow crew members
were second."

(CONTINUED
ON PAGE 5)



Local cadets and staff took part in a
march-past in front of the new Wing
Commander at St Athan, Robert Balls.
It commemorated the anniversary
of the Battle of Britain.
(SEE MORE IMAGES ON PAGE 6).

MAN IS JAILED AFTER CRASHING HIS CAR INTO A FAMILY HOME

DAMAGE of more than £7,000
was caused when a drunken driver
crashed his vehicle into the
front of a house in Penarth, it was
stated at Cardiff Crown Court,
writes AJ SICLUNA.

Sean Sweeney (30), a barber, of
Pantycelyn Road, Llandough, was convicted
of charges of dangerous driving and
failing to provide a breath sample.

He was jailed for 18 months, disqualified
from driving for three years, and
ordered to take the extended driving test.

Prosecutor Joanna James said that in
June, Sweeney went out drinking with
friends in Penarth. When he left, he was
driving, having consumed a large amount
of alcohol and crashed into a house in
Custom House Place, the home of Dylan
Harris and his family, including two children.

Extensive damage was caused and the
family had been greatly affected by the
incident.

When the police arrived on the scene,
Sweeney became aggressive.

His counsel, Stephen Clarke, said: "He

accepts he will receive a custodial sentence.
In drink, he makes stupid mistakes
and has no control. He has a partner who
is fortunately standing by him."

Passing sentence, Judge Daniel
Williams said that on the night in question,
he had drunk lager, champagne and
liqueurs. The effect of the crash, said the
Judge, had been profound on the family,
and they had had to move out.

"You refused to provide a specimen of
breath, and you were aggressive to the
police. Only an immediate sentence can be
passed."

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'Why are people forced to go down this path?'

WITH regard to criticism made by Conservative MP Alun Cairns of Foodbank users, I'd like to say that I feel he is totally out of order to stigmatise people in this way.

My response to him is: when are you going to visit the Barry centre for yourself and chat to users before making such comments?

I think instead of making such statements, he should be finding out exactly why people are being forced to go down this path.

Mr Cairns is portraying Foodbank users as using the service because of "the inability to manage their money and budget, addition to alcohol or substance misuse" - comments which I feel are both shallow and extremely wrong.

To stigmatise people in such a way is totally outrageous.

I would like to see just how he would cope if he was in the same predicament as those who are forced to use this service.

In fact, the problem has come about as a result of welfare changes - the 'bedroom tax' brought in by Mr Cairns' own party - and it is really heart-breaking to see many local people facing such hardship.

Finally, I was also interested to see comments from his Labour opponent and I would be interested to see if his party are going to reverse all the welfare changes brought in by the ConDems.

Coun Richard Bertin,
(Independent,
Vale of Glamorgan Council).

Where is the evidence?

RECENT comments by Vale MP Alun Cairns concerning the modern equivalent of soup kitchens in his constituency, were very illuminating.

Foodbank managers, who should be in a position to know, say that the rise in demand is linked to changes to benefits, but Mr Cairns disagrees.

Having recently proclaimed in the House of Commons his belief in the importance of accurate statistics in informing public debate, he should have no problem in providing his constituents with the evidence he used for his assertion that people using the three Vale of Glamorgan Foodbanks, did so because they can't manage money, are victims of abuse, or neglect their families.

It would be interesting to compare his 'evidence' with official statistics listing the amount of money lost to his dis-

abled constituents due to benefit cuts, and to those who work hard in insecure jobs - where pay is so low that it has to be topped up by taxpayers through the tax credit system.

It would also be helpful for us to know the "range of other reasons" Mr Cairns refers to in his explanation for the rise in Foodbank usage.

Does he share the view of his Conservative colleague, a millionaire stockbroker, who said that Foodbanks were "an unnecessary indulgence"?

If so, is Mr Cairns willing to look in the eye the parents of almost 1,000 Barry children whose parents had to resort to the foodbank, and tell them this?

In time, Mr Cairns may regret expressing so openly the Malthusian view that it is acceptable to blame the poor for being poor, rather than to examine the causes of poverty.

S K Bowyer, Barry,
(Labour supporter)

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'Bus service should reflect the needs of the Vale community'

UNFORTUNATELY, I was unable to attend the public meeting in Barry regarding the issue of the bus services in the Vale, but it would appear not one of the dignitaries present made a single constructive suggestion, especially as it was reported that nearly half a million pounds has been allocated to the new T9 service.

I travel from Rhosee to Barry and Cardiff several times a week and have taken a special interest in observing the number of passengers these buses carry.

I have seen around 15 buses in this time and have only seen nine passengers and this was observing buses in the middle of the day.

There is also a bus which runs between Rhosee railway station and the airport. Except on very rare occasions, this also runs almost devoid of customers.

I realise it is easy to criticise other people's actions, but I would like to submit constructive suggestions:

- Cancel the new T9 service immediately.
- Use some of the half a million pounds saved to return the X91 to its original route, serving Llantwit and Rhosee with a half-hour service.
- The X91, going into the airport and then on to Cardiff, will mean that the T9 bus would be redundant and there would still be a bus every half an hour from the airport to Cardiff, which is quite sufficient to serve the very small number of people

Who would use a Foodbank unless they're desperate?

RECENTLY, you published an interesting letter from John Drysdale, in which he pointed out the two very different sides to Mr Alun Cairns, our local MP.

Most of us have different sides to ourselves, but then I read an article in another newspaper about the number of people using Foodbanks in Barry.

It then quoted Mr Cairns as stating the people who use them cannot manage their finances, have either drug or alcohol problems - plus other very

judgmental comments - all of which beggars belief.

Does he really believe anyone wants to use Foodbanks unless they are desperate? Come on, Mr Cairns, get real.

I'd like him to live on benefits, with the 'bedroom tax', and know what it is like to go hungry in the fourth or fifth richest country in the world.

I do believe most people go into politics to make a difference - the question is, who does Mr Cairns want to make a difference to?
Jane Walker, Barry.

SEE MORE
LETTERS ON
PAGE 15.

• Email your letters to
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FULL NAME, ADDRESS,
AND PHONE NUMBER.

involved. I feel very strongly that the bus service should reflect the needs of the community and the people that pay their taxes - and not passengers who use the airport, perhaps once a year, and make little or no contribution to the local economy.

I do hope Peter Heath from Cardiff Bus will consider my remarks and not just dismiss them because the decisions have already been made and rubber stamped and to change it now would show somebody did not think it through.

The people of the Vale need their bus services increased not reduced. We are continuously told to leave our car in the garage and use public transport.

Do the politicians think that the steps they are taking with the buses are helping to achieve this?
John S Farrier, Rhosee.

Hospital's caring team of 'angels'

IN these current times, when it seems fashionable to denigrate and criticise our hospitals and staff, I am writing from first-hand experience of an exceptional team of nurses at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend.

I am referring to the Stroke unit there, where my mother, aged 94, was taken with acute leukaemia.

Under the dedicated supervision of Sister Jo and nurses Amy and Lucy in particular, their extraordinary devotion and loving care succeeded in making life for my mother more comfortable.

'ENRAGED BY SALARY RISES'

ISTILL get amazed at how our governing bodies have the cheek to ask for, and get, salary rises and unlimited expenses.

With reference to the recent BBC controversy, Lord Patten's electorate voted him out of office as an MP.

His reward? Governor of Hong Kong, until the take-over by the Chinese, a cushy number for him and his family for a few years.

On arrival back in the UK, he is made a Lord. Why? Next thing we know, he is chairman of

able. At the end of a very long life, all my mother wanted was to die with dignity and peacefully in her own home.

Sister Jo, ably assisted by the brilliant Dr David Webb, not only organised an ambulance and a hospital bed to be installed in my mother's home, but also district nurses to administer to her.

My mother died peacefully ten days later at home, with her family at her bedside.

I daily thank that small band of angels at the Stroke unit for enabling this to happen.

Their support and genuine care were magnificent and went beyond the call of duty.
Richard Norris, Llanblethian.

the BBC Trust, where he supported frivolous pay-offs, with our money.

I may have a rebel mind, but I lived an honest and good life, with many monuments to show throughout the western world (ie Barry Engineering).

I am now 88 years of age, so I am not talking through my hat, as some may think; but I wonder how long those so-called wonderful MPs would last if they had to work for a living - when one mistake means you are sacked.

K Jenkins Rhosee.

Barry becoming 'Flatland' rather than 'Sea-land'

IAM writing to you about my concern over the lack of entertainment facilities and infrastructure projects in Barry.

What we need in the next three years, is a genuine cinema, a Waterfront link to Barry Island, cafe and restaurant facilities on the Waterfront, a road link across the A48 to the M4, and an attractive development on the now derelict site that was once the fairground.

Perhaps the council need to purchase the fairground site to enable its sale to the right developer.

Once again, I would appeal to the councillors, MPs and Welsh Assembly Members to champion the cause of a proper cinema, enter-

tainment facilities and a new road to the Island and a proper infrastructure to improve this potentially great town.

Come on, Pride in Barry and other great campaigners in the town; support these issues.

Why should Bridgend have all these facilities and a great shopping centre and Barry have nothing but a great history? We are the biggest town in Wales!

It beggars belief that an attractive town like Barry cannot attract the right private investment, with the right soundings and incentives to relevant companies.

Surely, enough flats have been built in the town for the time being? We are in danger of becoming 'Flatland' and not a great 'Sealand'.
Phil Stansfield, Barry.

Island needs funding

WHY have we not gained

regeneration funding, as reported in last week's newspaper? I am hugely disappointed to read that the Labour-led Vale Council failed in their bid to secure funding from the Welsh Assembly Government.

We read each week in the local papers how much funding is needed

to regenerate the town centre as well as the coastal resorts.

Barry Island was really busy this year during the summer and funding could have helped to make it a much-needed year round resort. There is little in the town for local people and funding could have been a lifeline for a lot of businesses.

The Government in Cardiff Bay, and the current council administration have some serious explaining to do.
Gillian Bruce, Barry.

Funding mystery

IAM writing with regard to regeneration funding for Barry; I was horrified that the Vale Council had failed to win funding, especially as our neighbouring councils of Bridgend and Cardiff are so much better off than the Vale of Glamorgan!

The question is, why has this application

failed? Barry Island had one of their best summers and we need all-round summer and winter entertainment.

The Welsh Assembly have a great deal of explaining to do.
Janice Charles, Barry,
(Former Conservative councillor).

See Council Leader's column on page 9 and Vale MP's view on page 11.

HIGH TIDE TIMES (UNTIL OCTOBER 3)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 - 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time		Time	
	AM	M	PM	M
26 Thur	11.11	8.3	23.37	7.8
27 Fri	11.57	7.7		
28 Sat	00.28	7.4	13.02	7.3
29 Sun	02.02	7.1	14.48	7.4
30 Mon	03.37	7.5	16.02	7.7
01 Tues	04.35	7.8	16.54	8.3
02 Wed	05.19	8.5	17.36	8.9
03 Thur	08.03	9.0	18.18	9.4

While THE GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

BARRAGE APPEARS DEAD IN THE WATER

THE Severn barrage project looks as if it is dead in the water after the Government said it doubted it could deliver what it claimed, writes TIM CHAPMAN.

Now, environmental campaigners are claiming that more up-to-date methods of energy generation are overtaking a 'barrage' scheme.

Hafren Power had wanted to build the structure from near Sully to Somerset and build something that would generate five per cent of the UK's energy needs.

But a Government report has now said: "...in its current form, the Hafren Power proposal for a Severn barrage does not demonstrate that it could deliver the benefits it claims it would achieve."

Gareth Clubb, director of Friends of the Earth Cymru, said there were "smaller scale" options for government to consider.

"This barrage dinosaur needs to be finally laid to rest, to make way for new technologies that can actually start harnessing the

massive tidal power of the Severn.

"For years, it's been clear that the environmental and economic problems of a large-scale Severn barrage are virtually impossible to overcome - and there are far better schemes that deserve committed government support."

Mr Chubb insisted: "The UK and Welsh Governments should now get behind smaller scale projects capable of delivering clean, green energy from the Severn. We have the potential for a world-leading industry, which could be based right here in south Wales."

Local UKIP councillor Kevin Mahoney pointed out that although some people outside the Sully area thought the scheme was appealing, two Government reports had rejected it as unviable.

He said: "We should be constantly investing millions of pounds into research looking at other smaller more effective tidal and sea current generating projects around the British coast that can actually prove to be viable without the

Berlin-wall style environmental devastation that a full scale barrage would create.

"And let's not forget that contrary to Hafren Power's claims that public money is not needed for this construction, it is of course.

He insisted: "It will be ordinary consumers who would ultimately fund this project through the guaranteed enhanced minimum price per unit for electricity that any generating company will be seeking - in the same way that the huge subsidies on wind turbines are currently creating energy poverty amongst energy consumers."



Youth work wins award for Vibe

VIBE Experience Ltd, a multimedia youth organisation based in Barry, has won a coveted National Participation Kitemark for its work with young people in the Vale.

Members of the Vale young inspectors team, including pupils from Cowbridge Comprehensive and St Clare's School, Porthcawl, visited Vibe over a number of weeks to assess their practices, in line with the seven National Children and Young People's Participation Standards.

These include Information, It's Your Choice, No Discrimination, Respect, You Get Something Out Of It, Feedback and Improving How We Work.

The inspectors studied Vibe's activities and projects, interviewed young people and staff, collected evidence, and completed a final assessment report.

The findings were overwhelmingly positive stating that "throughout all parts of the organisation, there were exceptional examples of including young people's opinions".

"Vibe proved that they tailor for different young people with different needs" and that "young people felt they benefited through increased confidence and other skills involving team work and communication".

Peter Williams, Vale Young Inspectors Coordinator, who pre-

sented the award, said:

"The Kitemark is a national award that proves Vibe works closely with young people and listen to their opinions and views on issues that affect them."

Dominique Patnett, Projects Manager for Vibe Experience said:

"This is a great achievement for Vibe Experience and our projects Motion Control Dance, Swoosh, V-POD, Everyone's Future and Studio 41.

"We run consultations, participation activities and a number of youth committees in which young people are empowered to play a key role in decision making processes, as well as making a difference in their local community.

"We are a voluntary sector organisation that really values the importance of young people's views, opinions and ideas."

ABOVE:
It's all smiles as the Vibe team celebrate the Kitemark award for their work with young people in the Vale.

Six vehicles in collision on M4 link road

SIX vehicles were involved in a collision on the north-bound side of the link road leading from Culverhouse Cross up to the M4 last Friday, September 20.

The incident took place at 8.55am and led to significant delays.

A police spokesman reported: "The female driver of one vehicle suffered minor injuries. The cars were cleared in about an hour."

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Attempted robbery

Police hunt suspect

South Wales Police are appealing for witnesses, following an attempted robbery at about 4am on Saturday, (September 21).

A 23-year-old woman was walking home after a night out in Barry, when she was approached by a man who tried to steal her mobile phone.

The incident occurred on O'Donnell Road, close to the junction with Robins Lane.

The suspect is described as being white, aged in his 20s or 30s, around 5ft 5ins in height,

of average build. He spoke with a local accent and is described as having a deep voice. It is believed that the man was intoxicated.

He was wearing dark coloured bottoms, a light blue hooded top with the hood up and white trainers. He ran off after he failed to grab the phone from her.

Police are continuing their investigation into the incident and are appealing for witnesses, or anyone who can give information, to call 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Knights of the road

MAY I please, through The GEM, thank the two stalwart and selfless men who moved my car out of the stream of traffic in Park Crescent, Barry, last Friday, after a clutch breakdown on the top of Windsor Road.

I knew neither of them and managed to thank only one, who returned my car key to me in Selly's newspaper shop, Park Crescent, where the two ladies in charge rescued me from the pouring rain.

Thank you to them all.
Mrs Betty John,
Barry.

Rhooose bingo

The management committee at Rhooose Community Centre in Stewart Road is holding a fundraising Bingo afternoon on Saturday (September 28) at 2.30pm. Raffle, light refreshments. All proceeds go towards the running of the hall.

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DROP-IN CENTRE'S FUN DAY ENTERTAINS CASTLELAND CHILDREN AND RESIDENTS



THE Drop In Centre wasn't just the children who had a good time, the adults did too. Chair of the trust, Eileen Moore told *The GEM*: "We are always extremely grateful for the community's support, and the donations this year were fantastic!"

Cadoxton WI celebrates the Harvest Festival...

CADOXTON (Barry) WI branch held its annual Harvest Festival supper on September 16.

Apart from the usual ham, cheeses, salads and desserts, there was an interesting display of the archives: photo albums, some with hand-stitched covers, press reports dating back 10 years; a table cloth which had been made for the Jubilee last year and which has the names of members hand-embroidered on it; a

Jubilee cushion, again hand made by a member, and lots more.

The raffles were won by Margaret, Marion and Rosemary; the doll raffle was won by Audrey, and the Chinese raffle won by Marilyn.

Sully WI's fun Cowboy night was enjoyed by many of the Link members, with hot dogs and line dancing

The branch meets every third Monday at Victoria Park Community Centre at 7pm. Contact 01446 404891. .

CW



MASLIN PARK WELCOMES NEW PLAY FACILITY

THE countdown to the new play area at Maslin Park began as workmen moved on to the site to transform the Island park into a state of the art play ground.

A total of £120,000 is being invested in the site as part of the wider regeneration scheme for Barry Island. Although the wider investment in the regeneration of the Island is being funded through Welsh Government regeneration funding, the Maslin Park scheme is being directly funded by the council.

The play area works mark the start of a busy programme of improvements locally with the Eastern promenade also set for a £3m investment programme.

Barry Island Primary School pupils helped put their own spin on the new play area, when they were drafted in to make suggestions on what they'd like included and to cast their eyes over the plans.

The new play equipment will suit all ages from toddlers right through to juniors.

Teenagers are also catered for as there will also be a multi-court area where they'll be able to practice basketball and football among other sports.

Maslin Park has been an important fixture in the lives of local people for some time after it was given to the residents of Barry Island by the Earl of Plymouth. The park

was named after Coun Maslin, a local councillor who was instrumental in obtaining the land from the Plymouth estate.

The play area will be closed temporarily while it undergoes its revamp, however the rest of the park will be open as normal.

Work is due to be completed in time for the October half-term so youngsters will have plenty of time to try out the new play equipment including the Barry Island galleon, the teacup twisters and the buddy board.

The Vale Council's cabinet member for

leisure, parks, and sport development, Coun Gwyn John said: "It is important for children to have access to first class play facilities and I have no doubt that the community at Barry Island will be proud of this exciting new facility."

"I am also particularly pleased that the council has been able to find the funding to carry out this work alongside the wider regeneration scheme.

This clearly demonstrates a commitment by the council to the wider regeneration of the Island."

Get a 'literary lunch' at library!

BARRY Library is offering a lunchtime treat for avid book worms.

Every Friday, the 'Literature at Lunchtime' group meets to study a range of literature, including extracts from novels, poems and short stories.

A year on from its launch, the shared reading group has now changed its name to Literature at Lunchtime.

Meetings take place in the community room, upstairs at Barry Library on Fridays at 12.30pm. However, from Friday, October 4, the time will change to 1pm start.

The sessions are run by the Vale Council's community outreach officer, Andrea Griffiths, who chooses a selection of stories and poems for the group to listen to and chat about afterwards.

One group member is enjoying the benefits, as she said: "It has rekindled a love for poetry I had lost."

"I really look forward to coming on a Friday - it's such a happy group! I would never have read some of these books before, but now I want to go out and find more by that author or poet."

The members are a social bunch who enjoy group outings.

Over the summer the members swapped Barry Library for Flat Holm Island for one of their meetings, spending the day exploring the island and reading poems and stories about the sea and lighthouses.

To find out more, contact Andrea Griffiths on 01446 725381.

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ALL ABOUT YOU had a successful open evening on September 2, and wanted to thank their clients, friends and new customers for coming along - it was a very enjoyable evening.

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in hairdressing, and is a qualified barber.

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Don't forget to book up early for Christmas appointments.

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Penarth quiz night

THE Penarth and District Fundraising Group for Marie Curie will be holding another quiz night and supper at the Penarth Conservative Club on Friday, October 4 at 7pm.

Teams of up to six people are invited to compete for their name on the shield. The cost is £5 per head with a buffet provided in the interval. The quiz has raised £17,376 since June 2004.

Contact Nerys Thomas to book a table on 029 21157743 or e-mail nerysthomas@tiscali.co.uk.

OWEN SAILS TO RIO!



ABOVE: Owen is sailing the oceans in this 70 ft yacht.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)
Rachel added: "The yacht is now heading for Rio de Janeiro, and is due there in the first week of October. "They are currently lying in fifth place. They had a hard time with broken ropes and sails but are moving

along quite quickly now." There will be more on this story as Owen makes further progress. To support Owen's fundraising for Cancer Research UK, go to: <http://www.justgiving.com/OwenClipper13-14>.



ABOVE: The visiting group check on plans for the memorial.

Seafarers' memorial set for the Barry Waterfront

DOCK No 1 at Barry Waterfront will welcome a new addition at the end of September, when an anchor memorial is installed at the site to pay homage to the many Barry seafarers who have sailed from the town's dock over the years.

The Barry branch of the Merchant Navy Association (Wales) spearheaded the idea for the memorial, and with the support of the Vale Council and Associated British Ports (ABP), the plans for a memorial are about to become a reality.

ABP has granted the council a licence for the work, and officers from the council's project management unit, landscape team, and visible services department have been working with the group to support the project.

The anchor has been donated by a local seafarer and is currently being prepared before being mounted at its new home on the waterfront.

The Leader of the Vale Council, Coun Neil Moore, together with Vale Council cabinet members Couns Lis Burnett and Chris Elmore, joining the chairman of the Barry branch of the Merchant

Navy Association, Jim Greenway, vice-chairman, Joe Norton, and ABP Estate surveyor, Byron Lewis, to see the start of work.

Coun Moore said: "We have been working with Jim Greenway and his colleagues for some months now in an effort to provide the necessary support to deliver this

scheme, and I think that, when completed, the anchor and its setting will provide a fitting memorial in this historical location."

Mr Greenway said: "We are delighted that the project is about to begin and look forward to the day the anchor will be available for all to see."

RHOOSE HISTORY

RHOOSE and District History Society is meeting on Friday, September 27, (after the summer break!) at 7.30pm in the lesser hall of Rhoose Community Hall, Stewart Road.

The speaker is Glen Booker, whose topic will be 'US Navy sails into Barry'.

ENGLISH OR WELSH SURVEY

PARENTS of young children in the Vale will be asked if they're considering Welsh or English medium education for their child as part of a new survey by the Vale Council to help inform future education provision.

The council will use the results of the survey to gauge future demand for school places to ensure there is sufficient provision for the coming years.

ADVERTISING PROMOTION

Robert Price officially opens new branch

ROBERT PRICE, the largest independent builders' merchants in south Wales, marked the official opening of its new Barry branch, by holding a 'Building Bonanza' exhibition.

It provided visitors with the opportunity to explore the new branch, discuss upcoming projects directly with manufacturers, and learn about the latest industry developments.

Commenting on the event, branch manager, Ben Pike, said: "The evening proved to be a great success, attracting hundreds of visitors from across south

Wales. Those who attended were able to meet over 70 manufacturers, get their hands on the latest products, learn what Robert Price has to offer, and enjoy a sociable evening."

The Bonanza also marked the launch of the new Barry Town FC under-19 2013/14 home kit, which has been sponsored by Robert Price.

"The majority of our customers and our new branch staff come from the local area," explained Ben Pike.

"As a new business in the town, it is nice to be able to support a local club, which is such an integral part of the community."

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| 7. Pepperoni Passion Double pepperoni, double cheese | | | |
| 8. Kebab Special Chicken and doner kebab, onion & peppers (extra cheese) | | | |
| 9. Meat Feast Pepperoni, spicy beef, spicy chicken, meatballs & ham (extra cheese) | | | |
| 10. Chicken Combo Chicken tikka, roast chicken, Chinese chicken & tandoori chicken | | | |
| 11. Hot Shot Pepperoni, salami, jalapeno, onion, peppers & garlic butter | | | |
| 12. American Hot Pepperoni, onion, spicy beef & fresh chilli (extra cheese) | | | |
| 13. Tikka Tikka Onion, chicken, tikka, peppers, American spicy sausage & mushroom | | | |
| 14. Romeo's Tandoori Mushroom, onion, tandoori chicken & peppers | | | |
| 15. Seafood Tuna, prawns, anchovies, olives & onion (extra cheese) | | | |
| 16. London Pizza BBQ sauce, pepperoni, spicy beef, onion & American spicy sausage | | | |
| 17. Paris Pizza BBQ sauce, roast chicken, smoky bacon, onion & peppers | | | |
| 18. Doner Pizza BBQ sauce & doner slices (extra cheese) | | | |
| 19. Romeo Meatball Spicy sausage, onion, meatball, pepperoni & green peppers | | | |
| 20. Chicken Special Spicy chicken, Chinese chicken, onion, fresh tomato & peppers | | | |
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Barry Cadets in Battle of Britain parade

RECENTLY, Air Cadets from 372 (Barry) Squadron were proudly on parade at the Memorial Hall cenotaph and at MoD St Athan, to commemorate the anniversary of the Battle of Britain.

Battle of Britain Sunday commemorates the victory in the air which saved Britain from invasion in 1940; described by Winston Churchill as "Never in the field of human conflict, was so much owed by so many to so few."

The Air Cadets formed an honour guard at the cenotaph and were by joined members of the Royal Air Forces Association (RAFA), former military personnel, and the public.

The service was conducted by Father Robert Parrish and RAFA branch chairman, Mr Geoff Horton. The last post was followed by a two-minute silence.

Wreaths were laid at the cenotaph on behalf of the RAFA by Mayor of Barry, Coun Claire Curtis, Squadron Leader David Crandon (RAFA branch president), Flight Sergeant Kevin Wilkins (MoD St Athan) and Mr Keith Harris, president



of the Royal British.

In the afternoon, the Barry Cadets were again proudly on parade along with 60 Air Cadets from around south Wales.

Squadron Leader David Crandon commented: "The Air Cadets did themselves proud

today, representing the Royal Air Force on this occasion and are a shining example of the youth in our community."

The Cadets are looking forward to their forthcoming trip to the battlefields and memorials of Ypres (Belgium)

and the Somme (France).

372 (Barry) Squadron have vacancies for boys and girls between 13-18 years old. Contact the Squadron on 01446 747734; email www.372squadron.org for more information.



Weatherman opens community garden at Dinas Powys



ABOVE: Derek Brockway officially opens the Nightingale garden.

NEWS FROM PENARTH AND DISTRICT RAMBLERS

Walking in the footsteps of industrial pioneers



Penarth Ramblers on the Rhiwderin walk.

RACHEL and her 14 companions set off from Rhiwderin to explore what had been an industrialised area during the 19th century, and from the Sirhowy Valley Walk, they reached Lower Ochryth, then Upper Ochryth and Castle Farm.

A track led to the disused Ochryth quarry before they joined part of the Raven Walk, along a bridleway through Coed Wau Fawr.

Lunch was enjoyed on Mynydd Machen while gazing at both Severn bridges, Penarth Head, Flat and Steep Holm, Brean Down, Brent Knoll, along the Welsh coast to Swansea Bay and inland up to the central Beacons.

Then, descending steeply, they made their way to the remains of the 13th century Castell Meredydd, or Machen Castle, hidden beneath foliage, before cross-

ing fields into a green lane and through the dark conifer plantation at Graig Wylt to the village for a refreshing drink at the Rhiwderin Inn.

Ten walkers, including leaders Krys and Pam, left Radyr railway station in dry weather but it didn't last, as the forecasted rain soon overtook them. Passing through Radyr golf course, they crossed fields and main roads and a dismantled railway line, to follow a road to St Fagans.

After enjoying a break at the National History Museum, the group made their way past the 12th century St Mary the Blessed Virgin Church which stands on the top of the hill.

Radyr developed after the Norman invasion of Wales at the beginning of the 12th century and during the Stuart period the wealthy Sir Edward Lewis who was knighted by King James I, became its new owner, residing at St Fagans Castle.

After the family fortune passed

to Elizabeth Lewis, who married the 3rd Earl of Plymouth, the freehold of most of Radyr passed into the Plymouth Estate.

Making their return by field, road and pathways the group made a soggy return to Radyr station, grateful that the route had only been six miles!

On September 28, meet at 9am at Cogan Leisure Centre for an 11-mile hard walk taking in Craig y Fan Ddu, Talybont Forest and the Blaen y Glyn waterfalls; contact Joy on 01446 737131.

Wear suitable clothing, preferably boots and carry waterproofs, food and drinks. Some degree of fitness is required and if you are in any doubt, then please contact the walk leader for advice.

To follow the group please log onto www.penarthramblers.wordpress.com. Programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2025 5102.

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BBC weatherman Derek Brockway was in Dinas Powys for the opening of a community garden, for residents to grow their own food.

The launch of Nightingale Community Garden celebrated two years of hard work by residents, community councillor Keith Hutton, Mike Ingram, the Vale Council's operational manager for housing, along with the support of the Community Foodie project.

It is a pioneering project run by Creative Rural Communities.

The idea for the Nightingale Community Garden was conceived following concerns about fly tipping, graffiti, dog fouling and anti-social behaviour taking place at the site.

Facing up to stark warnings on the health of our nation

LAST week, the Health Minister, Professor Mark Drakeford, launched the pioneering Welsh Government eye health care delivery plan to mark National Eye Health Week.

All over Wales, Assembly members visited local optometrists to update on their strengthening links with GPs, and Ophthalmologists in our hospitals, to improve the eye health of all children and adults in Wales.

I visited Ted Arbutnot in Barry to meet the team who have been helping to deliver the award-winning Wales Eye Care Initiative, which was developed by Mr Arbutnot here in Barry over a decade ago – cutting down referrals to hospital and enabling optometrists to work more closely with GPs in the community.

At an eye health conference in Cardiff, the Health Minister said: "Wales has established a strong reputation in the development and provision of eye health care services. Yet, even today, estimates suggest that half of the cases with a visual impairment could have been prevented."

"With cases of sight loss set to increase by 22 per cent by 2020 and double by 2050 due to the ageing population, we have to act now."

Ted Arbutnot also welcomed the developments in optometry services in Wales and said: "The availability of good eye care in the community, near the patient's home or workplace, has improved dramatically over the last decade of the Welsh Eye Care scheme."

Assembly Notes



by Vale AM
JANE HUTT
(Minister for Finance and Leader of the House)

"Whether a person has an eye emergency or is at high risk of a blinding eye disease, a local optician's practice will now have specially accredited optometrists to deal with the problem quickly and appropriately. This scheme saves many patients' sight, several lives and saves hours and hours of patients' time and hospital emergency room time."

This is one example of the way we are working to improve health in Wales. The publication of the latest Welsh Health Survey on September 11 shows that around half of adults reported being treated for an illness such as high blood pressure, heart condition, arthritis, respiratory illness, mental illness or diabetes – and around a third of adults reported a limitation in their daily activities due to a health problem/disability.

There were many stark messages in this report on the health of our nation which impact on our plans to improve health across the board.

There is a greater emphasis on prevention and improving health in our lifestyles as well as in the services we provide, targeting those who

are most vulnerable to ill-health.

There are a number of examples of the way we fund and provide services in Wales which help address these issues, such as the provision of free, nutritious breakfasts in our primary schools, with many primary schools in the Vale offering this healthy start to the day. The free breakfast schemes also provide safe and free childcare as children come to school for breakfast and playtime before the school day starts.

Free school milk is also offered and is funded by the Welsh Government alongside the provision of free swimming for older people in term time and children in the school holiday.

It is important to provide opportunities for healthy exercise, whatever the financial circumstances of those who take part.

We will shortly be taking an Active Travel Bill through the Assembly as a stimulus for walking and cycling which is now encouraged with school children receiving training for safe cycling.

In the survey, 68 per cent of children were reported to have very good general health and 27 per cent of children were reported to have general good health.

We need to increase those figures, especially amongst the poorest children in our communities. Welsh

Government-funded programmes, such as Flying Start and Families First, are also helping to improve the health of our children and families and we are determined to keep funding these priorities, despite ongoing cuts to the Budget by the UK Government.

There is a greater emphasis on prevention and improving health in our lifestyles as well as in the services we provide, targeting those who

REUNION JOY FOR 6th BARRY (ALL SAINTS) SEA SCOUTS...



A HAPPY reunion took place at the 6th Barry Sea Scouts headquarters, St Nicholas Scout Hall, when over 70 ex-Scouts and leaders met (some after 60 years) to remember the happy times of their youth. They recalled sailing, camping, canoeing, hiking and creating a Scout group of which they were all proud to be members.

The event started with some of the present day Scouts carry-

ing out the flagbreak in true naval fashion, and although many of those present had done the same ritual, it was pointed out that never before had the ceremony been performed by members of the troop in front of a present day Commodore of the Royal Navy.

Martin Westwood was the first ex-6th Barry member to rise to such a high rank in the Royal Navy.

Former group Scout leader, Philip Walters, welcomed all to the reunion and said he was aware that the group had been originally formed over 100 years ago, prior to the First

World War. As no history is known of these early years, the celebration was called the 80th anniversary.

The group was reformed in 1932, with his grandfather JA Grace being instrumental in its resurrection, and he recalled some of the major activities that had created such a magnificent history for the group.

District Commissioner Keith Williams, reiterated the congratulations sent by Alun Cairns, before presenting 'Medals of Merit' to two of the long-serving leaders, Steve Taylor, and Cub Scout Leader Faye Harding.

The oldest member present, Mr John Wilkins, who had been a Cub in 1944, proposed a toast to the continued success of the group. Those present then tucked into a buffet lunch, as they reminisced about their adventures in the Cubs, Scouts, and Senior Scouts, looked at the old log books, and studied photographs displayed, projected on the screen, and produced out of members' pockets.

In the evening, a number of those who had travelled long distances stayed on and enjoyed a meal together at the Mount Sorrel hotel.

PW

Councillor is too 'parochial' about housing

COUNCILLOR Ian Johnson's comment "Adjust housing target in line with population change", in last week's GEM, betrays a complete failure to understand the relationship between population change and housing need.

No doubt it is a councillor's job to be parochial, but homelessness is a national disgrace needing a much wider understanding.

Among the reasons for a depressed population increase are (a) shortage of affordable houses; (b) shortage of jobs in the locality; (c) few attractions for young

READER'S VIEWPOINT

people to remain in their communities, and (d) the irresistible magnet of London and the south-east of England.

Our nation now needs two million new homes, allowing for the continuing growth during the 20 years it will take to build them.

All the pressure of population growth is centred on London, the great, unhealthy hotspot of our over-centralised and unbalanced economy. The result is a divided nation between the rich metropolis and the deprived rest (normally referred to as the north/south divide).

There is a three-way interaction between population growth, jobs and the economy. In the south east today, demographic change and the lack of affordable homes is a brake on economic growth.

We need to provide jobs and houses, preferably far away from London, where the economic benefits can be felt by all. So let us build more homes designed for home workers and more integrated developments with workshops and houses.

Llandow would be an ideal location for a well-planned new village.

We just need to take off our parochial blinkers, and think about others.

Jim Grove,
Cowbridge.

...AIR CADETS GET TASTE OF LIFE ON THE OCEAN WAVE!

RECENTLY three Air Cadets from 372 (Barry) Squadron swapped the air for the sea when they boarded the 72-foot round the world Challenge Wales racing yacht for a week on the ocean wave.

Challenge Wales is a wholly-owned project of Maiden Voyage, a charity dedicated to providing young people aged between 12 and 25 years old, and the young at heart of Wales, with a chance to develop their self-esteem and life-skills of team working and communication through the experience of offshore sailing.

The Cadets who sailed from Pembroke to Conway via Ireland, led by skipper Andy Hall, along with other Air Cadets from south Wales, were completely involved with the sailing by winning the sheets and halyards, taking the helm and raising the sails. They experienced a disciplined routine where they each relied on the other.

Corporal Kieran Long said: "It was an exhausting but amazing experience, which everyone enjoyed. I totally enjoyed this trip as everyone got along really well and worked hard as a team."

Cadet Alex Spragg,



The Challenge Wales yacht
(Picture by Kieran Long).

who took the helm throughout the trip, said: "At times, we reached speeds of 10 – 15 knots, which was exhilarating. The crew kept safety as their main concern throughout the experience, which was reassuring."

"The crew were pleased with how well we all worked together."

The Barry Cadets were: Alex Spragg, Keiran Long and Nathan Loxton.

Flight Lieutenant Jason Horton, Commanding Officer, said: "Sailing with Challenge Wales is just one of the amazing opportunities which Air Cadets can experience."

"Alex, Kieran and Nathan would have worked hard as a team in a demanding environment; however, they had fun and learnt new skills during their week away."

The Squadron has



Alex Spragg celebrating his birthday in style.

vacancies for boys and girls between 13 – 18 years old. It parades on Mondays and Wednesdays (7pm – 9.30pm) behind Adams Funeral Parlour. Phone the Squadron on 01446 747734 or email oc.372@aircadets.org.

News from All Saints

OVER 130 people of all ages attended last Sunday's family service at All Saints, Penarth, with a special welcome for the 12th Penarth Brownie Pack.

The worship centred on the Parable of the Prodigal Son, with everyone in the congregation participating.

The next family service will be held on Sunday, October 27 at 10am.

ON AIR

BBC Radio Wales will be recording two editions of its Celebration programme at All

Saints on Wednesday, October 2, at 6.30pm.

Two half-hour acts of worship will be recorded that evening, the first for broadcast later in October and the second just after Christmas.

The programme goes out on Sunday mornings at 7.30am and again at 5.30pm, and typically attracts over 40,000 listeners.

All are welcome to join All Saints parishioners as members of the congregation on this occasion – please arrive by 6pm. For more information, visit www.all-saintspenarth.org.uk.

MTG

ASSEMBLY GRANT FOR BIKE CLUB

THE Vale Council's Community Bike Club has secured more than £6,000 Assembly funding, to help tackle obesity and health inequalities.

The club, based at Iolo Park in Barry, received the cash from the Welsh Government's Health Challenge Wales wellbeing activity grant scheme.

It will pay for volunteers to be trained on the Cycle Training Wales National Instructor

course, for the Bikeability cycling proficiency scheme – giving children the skills to ride their bike on the road.

The money will also be used for hall hire at Holm View Leisure centre during winter and for bike maintenance equipment to help club members keep their bikes in good condition.

The bike club is held at Iolo Park every Tuesday from 4.30pm to 6pm. Full details on 01446 709432.

Pupils meet Mrs Wobble!



Welcome back!

ON Sunday (September 29), the Barry churches of St Paul's and Merthyr Dyfan will welcome back anyone who has not attended church recently.

At Merthyr Dyfan, the morning service starts at 8.45am and at St Paul's Church, Father Robert Parrish will lead the service at 10am.

YEAR-2 children at Colcot Primary School have been reading Mrs Wobble the Waitress and, to further their knowledge and understanding, had a lovely morning at 'The Little Blue Deli'.

They were able to order their own food and were spoilt with a

choice of sandwiches, crisps, squash and a delicious cupcake. The highlight of their visit was meeting Mrs Wobble the Waitress. We are pleased to say that fortunately she didn't wobble and spill their food. A great time was had by all.

CB

Penarth Computer Club Dinosaurs welcome!

VISITORS sensibly took advantage of a free evening to find out about the club. Some self-described dinosaurs knew little about computers – or did not yet own one.

All were welcomed and two slide presentations made: The first described the club and assured them that we fully understand their difficulties, whether they concerned how to expand their abilities, or seeking advice on how to decide on what to buy.

It was stressed that meetings were planned to be informative, friendly and fun.

No one was going to be pushed to learn. Although invited to become members, they could attend as occasional visitors if preferred.

Anyone who has a question about the content of a talk is invited to interrupt to ask the question.

Any term or expression that is not understood should be queried on the spot and will be explained.

In that vein, plain English explanations were given about the 'motherboard' and its function and what an operating system is and

what it does. Another question opportunity was given at the end.

The second presentation started with three golden rules for everyone from absolute beginners to experienced users.

Never answer 'yes to a question you do not understand.'

If you do not understand what the computer is about to do you might not know how to reverse it if you don't like the result.

The safe response is to say 'no' and think about it or seek help.

Back up your data.

Files can get lost or unintentionally deleted. To guard against loss, copies can be made and stored elsewhere.

It is an important topic and we return to it from time to time.

It is the user's choice to balance the effort to

make the copies against the gravity of the loss.

Keep learning.

The way you initially learnt to do something might not be the best way for you.

You will discover how to do things you had not realised were possible.

In that context, a selection of 10 tips was offered:

Learn to manipulate windows (there are 30 ways. (at least); keep only shortcuts on your desktop for safety's sake; select files or objects using the Shift and Control keys or 'Ctrl+A'; re-arrange lists by clicking on the column heading – makes finding things easier.

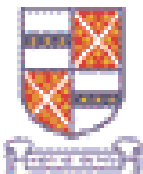
HOWARD
DESMOND

JOIN CASTAWAYS!

The Castaways Club is holding a coffee morning and open session on Friday, September 27, at 10.30am, at the Castletand Drop In Centre, Belvedere Crescent, Barry.

Entry (and a cup of tea) is free! There will be cakes, bric-a-brac and raffles. All are welcome to go along.

The Castaways is an independently run club for older people living in the Vale, meeting twice a week for social activities, bingo and lunch. New members are welcome – to find out more, contact Sue on 01446 734387.



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'AGGRIEVED THAT BARRY HAS MISSED OUT ON REGENERATION FUNDING BID'

Regrettably, I cannot begin my column this month without making a comment about the Vale Council's bid for the Welsh Government 'Viable and Vibrant Places' regeneration funds that we submitted recently.

In my last column I was confident that 'our' bid was as good as anyone else's and I sincerely believed that we would be successful in at least making the first round of the bidding process.

The scheme, as many will know, would have allowed us to access the pot of money amounting to around £90 million of regeneration funds over a three-year period.

Admittedly, it would be shared between five or six other councils in Wales, but it would have allowed us to continue the regeneration work that we have already started in Barry.

To say that I am very annoyed, aggrieved and absolutely disgusted with the outcome, is an understatement.

To be successful, the bid was 'supposed' to be based on three primary

principles or requirements. Our bid was based on the three key priorities that had to be met and we concentrated that bid on Barry.

The three priorities were that Barry was 1. a coastal community, 2. a town, or 3. an area that had Community First areas.

I think there is no doubt we met all three criteria.

However, due to the fact that there was a change of Minister in the Welsh Government, it is clear his priority changed – giving housing and the development of 'homes' greater importance.

Although I understand, and actually agree with his personal priority of ensuring families can be brought up in 'homes' and not just houses, I cannot see how bidding criteria can be changed mid-stream and those councils that met this initial criteria can be rejected from the bidding process.

Maybe we would not have made it to the final stage, but that is not the point.

Our bid was on continued regeneration, to create employment in many areas and particularly in tourism.

We do not need to

create more houses, as this will be achieved through the new Local Development Plan (LDP) where social housing is factored in through the section 106 planning requirements as a percentage of any new development.

The Vale's bid was based on the original criteria and on the views of local people and organisations. It was a very good bid, and I reject the political stance of Mr Cairns, the Vale's Conservative MP, since the bid was rejected.

I have to say that I am fed up with his negative campaigning against the council, just because it is Labour-led.

He should look back at his own colleagues who previously ran the council so disastrously, and start to support the people of Barry – and not constantly run them down.

POSITIVES

I would also like to comment on the positive summer season of events that was put together by our tourism team. It shows what can be achieved, with the will to do so.

Thanks to everyone involved and to the residents, traders and business community who also played such an

important part in making it a success.

We are already making plans for next year, and I look forward to future events and I am sure they will continue to be a success.

I am also pleased to confirm we continue to make excellent progress in building the new Penarth Learning Community Schools and I am very pleased that we are consulting on creating co-education in the English medium secondary schools in Barry. I think it's the right thing to do in this day and age.

As a cabinet, we also want to continue supporting Oak Field Primary School, and would like to build a brand new school on the same site and extend Ysgol Gwaun Y Nant into the adjoining building.

In this way we enhance both English and Welsh medium education, and thereby meet the continuing need within the county.

To finish, I would like to make a comment about criticism of school transport to Cowbridge Comprehensive School.

It has been suggested by the Conservative MP that the council should provide school transport

to the school from the Rhose area, but he knows only too well that councils have no responsibility to provide transport for children attending schools outside their catchment area, through parental choice, as in this case.

The council runs 66 school bus services across the Vale, and actually spends many hundreds of thousands of pounds each year providing transport for every eligible child and subsidising other public transport services.

I know it might

appear harsh, but the council cannot afford to provide school transport when there is no legal responsibility to do so.

It is regrettable that cuts by the Westminster Government have caused the bus subsidies from Welsh Government to be cut as a result.

The council is currently looking at how it can restructure bus and other services to better serve local people in the Vale – and while we do that, perhaps any criticism should be targeted at the real source of the problem – Westminster.



VIEW FROM THE VALE
by Coun
NEIL MOORE
Leader of the
Vale of
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Council



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Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Branch Manager Phil Powell feels that it's all about service. "Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although

that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service the Vale, Bridgend, RCT and Porthcawl areas and Phil is finding that his

approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've



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Open and honest discussion is needed, after failure to get regeneration funds for Barry

TWO weeks ago we heard the devastating news that the Welsh Government had rejected a £15m regeneration bid for Barry by the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

So much hope was pinned on this funding and it is therefore only right that we analyse what went wrong and hold those responsible for its failure.

Readers may recall that the Welsh Government profited by close to £50m from the sale of land on Barry's Waterfront. Pride in Barry, a group of forward-thinking local people launched a campaign to gain regeneration funding to help redevelop the town.

Locals felt that money had been taken away from Barry and that we had the right to expect a share of the profit. Without gaining an element of the proceeds of the sale of the land, the Welsh Government would have acted in no better way than asset strippers.

After a long fight, £9million was made available

over three years to help redevelop the town. Full credit should be given to Pride in Barry for winning this argument.

The Barry Regeneration Board was established to develop and co-ordinate regeneration projects across the town. The board was made up of private sector members and Vale Council representatives.

They gave up their time and had a real impact with the limited resources available. The spending period ends this coming March.

This brings us to the recent application for £15m to start next year. Essentially the bid was rejected and we need to find out why.

We have now come to the point where there needs to be an open and honest discussion. The Vale councillors concerned need to admit their mistakes and the Welsh Government should state plainly and clearly why it rejected the Vale's bid.

This should be done on a non-party basis and I hope that Pride in Barry could play a key part in such a meeting.

Sadly, Wales' largest town is left without any regeneration plans. Over the last 18 months, the Collins' report that offering sustainable wealth creating opportunities for Barry has been shelved and the Vale's regeneration bid has been rejected. These come on top of our poor funding settlement, which leaves us as one of Wales worst funded areas.

As it stands, we run the risk of not gaining a tangible regeneration project for five years or more.

This is unacceptable and those responsible need to be held to account. Regeneration Board members might well ask what is their role without any money to spend.

Vale MP Alun Cairns reports to GEM readers



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CARDIFF CROWN COURT REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

Former Rotary man who started growing cannabis

CANNABIS plants with a potential yield worth up to £11,500 were found when the police searched a property in Penarth.

At Cardiff Crown Court, Robert Stephens (49), a builder, of Lavernock Road, Penarth, was jailed for 16 months, the sentence suspended for two years, and was ordered to carry out 180 hours unpaid work.

Stephens, a former vice-president of the local Rotary Club, had admitted producing cannabis over a 10-month period.

Recorder Christopher Clee QC told him: "I believe you foolishly got involved in this enterprise."

Prosecutor David Pugh said that on October 27, police searched a property in Bute Lane, Penarth, owned but not occupied by Stephens.

In a small room, they found several cannabis plants growing and upstairs there were more plants.

The potential value varied between £3,850 and £11,550.

Police found plant feed, scales, self-sealing bags and rubber gloves.

The home of Stephens was also searched, and the police found cannabis worth £100.

Mr Pugh said the

number of plants far exceeded what would have been required for personal consumption.

Some of the plants, added Mr Pugh, were not in good condition.

"He was not a very proficient gardener," he said.

Stephens later explained that he had invested £800 in the equipment, but lacked aptitude to grow the plants correctly.

Stephens, who represented himself, said he currently had five county court actions against him. He was said to have

convictions for offences including burglary and dishonest handling.

He told the court "I can only apologise. There was no commercial activity".

He said he suffered from a number of illnesses, and had been unable to afford counsel.

During a bout of depression, he continued, he became addicted to cannabis but no longer took the drug.

"I was aware of my idiocy and I buried my head in the sand."

He pointed out that he had immediately admit-

ted his guilt.

Two years ago, he said, he became ill and suffered a financial loss of £150,000.

He also said he had been involved with several charities, a school parent teacher association and Cubs and Scouts.

Stephens said his wife, too, had several chronic illnesses and he constantly assisted her.

"The last two years have been the worst of my life, but I'm getting back on my feet, financially and with my health," he said.

Man with 152 convictions is now back behind bars

A man who has previous convictions for 152 offences is back behind bars.

At Cardiff Crown Court, Leon Parsons (40), a father of three, of Hanover Court, Barry, was jailed for six months.

He admitted charges of attempting to burgle a house in Plymouth Road, Barry, burgling a garage at the same address, and stealing a mobile phone.

He had been convicted of those offences by Vale magistrates and committed to the Crown Court for sentence.

He also admitted three offences involving attempted burglary and burglary with intent.

Prosecutor Jason Howells said taxi driver Stephen Rees picked up four men, including the defendant, in Barry. At their destination, there was a dispute over the fare and when Mr Rees drove away, he discovered that

his £400 mobile phone had been stolen.

Mr Howells said that Parsons also broke into a garage and stole a mountain bike.

He also attempted to burgle a house. He didn't succeed, but forced open a window.

When arrested, he admitted stealing the telephone, which he said he sold to another taxi driver.

He was said to have convictions for 152 offences, 60 for theft, and 12 for burglary, plus others for causing damage and making a false representation.

His counsel, David Martin, said: "Prison is obviously inevitable and to his credit he admitted everything."

"He's not without certain qualities, but he has problems because of drugs. He cannot remember committing many of the offences in the past."

He was ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £80.

'Many Tears' appeals for support

AN animal rescue centre based near Carmarthen has appealed to dog-lovers to support its work.

'Many Tears Rescue' is an animal rescue which mainly takes in unwanted dogs.

A spokeswoman explained: "The centre rescues them from breeders and pounds, and spays, neuters and re-homes them."

"The rescue centre is successful because dog lovers throughout

the UK have helped the cause.

"The home fosters dogs out to kind, loving families who give the dog a taste of a stable family life, assess it and give it a stepping stone to a new home."

"The rescue centre moves dogs all over the UK and can 'home' out of its area."

Volunteers fulfil a number of roles. The spokeswoman said: "They are fosterers, home checkers, walkers, poster makers, fund

raisers, and so much more. What

they all have in common is their real love of dogs.

"There are people in the Barry area who have given their time and energy to the rescue, but we need more, so if people are interested please look at our site www.manytearsrescue.com."

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WELSH ST DONATS WOMAN'S GREAT RUN FOR STARLIGHT



LEFT: Sue Gregory-Phillips at the Great North Run. Sue ran to raise money for the Starlight Children's Foundation in memory of her stepdaughter.

GEM readers may recall that we recently reported Welsh St Donats resident, Sue Gregory-Phillips, was planning to tackle the Great North Run for charity.

She ran to raise money for the Starlight Children's Foundation in memory of her stepdaughter Madeleine (known as Mud).

The GEM is delighted to report that Sue finished the race in a time of two hours, five minutes, 38 seconds.

A charity spokeswoman said: "Starlight

grants wishes for children with serious and terminal illnesses, and the charity granted Mud's wish to attend Reading Festival with a group of her close friends in 2003.

"Mud was diagnosed with an arteriovenous malformation (AVM) just before her 15th birthday in 2003, and she sadly died on May 6, 2012, at the age of just 23.

There is still time to donate to Sue's good cause, by visiting <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/SueGregoryPhillips>

RNLI VOLUNTEERS ARE KEPT BUSY DURING WARM SUMMER

RNLI volunteers – both lifeboat crew and lifeguards – have had a very busy summer.

Provisional figures released by the RNLI show that lifeboat launches across Wales between June and August rocketed by 43 per cent compared with summer 2012.

The statistics reveal RNLI lifeboats and lifeguards across Wales have been exceptionally busy, with lifeguards responding to 946 incidents and lifeboats launching 726 times.

Of the 31 lifeboat stations in Wales, 24 reported an increase in emergency calls, with some experiencing dramatic rises.

The two busiest stations were Rhyl and Tenby. RNLI lifeguards in south and west Wales also had a challenging summer and carried out some dramatic rescues. Incidents included the rescue of a young child trapped in a cove underneath a cliff face in Tenby, who was saved by Irene Li, a volunteer lifeguard from Atlantic College.

Irene was out on a training swim in Tenby when she noticed the child in trouble.

As she was training, and not carrying a rescue aid, she swam unaided to the cove and pulled the child to safety.

Stuart Thompson, RNLI lifeguard manager for south Wales,

said: "This rescue showcases the resourcefulness and commitment that our RNLI lifeguard team has shown across the board this year.

"Not all problems can be anticipated and our lifeguards have to be prepared to respond at a moment's notice

"The good weather that we have seen this summer has brought a huge number of visitors to our beaches in Wales, and the lifeguards have certainly had their hands full with a wide range of incidents.

"A lot of the work that we do is based around prevention, helping beach users to stay in the safest areas of the beach and out of danger."

Assembly greets Flanders cyclists



THE Welsh memorial in Flanders campaign recently stopped off at the National Assembly where they were welcomed on the steps of the Senedd by Deputy Presiding Officer, David Melding AM.

The eight cyclists from the north Wales rugby choir, the official choir of the campaign, are cycling 670 miles from Bangor to Flanders, in memory of Welsh-language war poet Hedd Wyn, who died at Langemark, Flanders, during the Battle of Passchendaele in 1917.

Presiding Officer,

Rosemary Butler AM, is a patron of The Welsh Memorial in Flanders Campaign.

Alwyn Bevan, a committee member of both the campaign and choir, said: "It is almost 100 years since the First World War began, and we haven't got a memorial to mark the sacrifice of Welsh soldiers in Flanders. The choir has organised this fundraising ride because we want to see the sacrifice, made by many young Welsh men, commemorated at Langemark.

"I would like to thank the Presiding Officer, and National Assembly, for the continued support for the campaign."

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Mrs J Thorpe

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I am extremely grateful for all the help and up to date information I have received from this excellent firm."

Mrs G Mayo-Evans

"I would like to thank Scott for his wonderful service when I bought my two hearing aids. I was able to try the aids out, without any payment for several weeks, in that trial period Scott called to adjust them for me and even sent one back and changed the shell because it was uncomfortable, not mentioning the money until I was satisfied. He is giving an amazing service in a world where you are expected to pay up front before you are satisfied with the goods.

I have used other companies over the years and have some bad experiences, and I would not, now, go anywhere else.

I have been most impressed with the quick and efficient service from Scott and Laura. I would thoroughly recommend Scott to anyone thinking of buying a hearing aid. He is extremely kind, patient and efficient. Thank you very much Scott and Laura for your incredible service."

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The Vale Council comments on the latest Estyn report

THE Vale Council has responded to a recent Estyn report on its education system by welcoming the 'good' judgements – and by promising action on any criticisms, writes PHILIP IRWIN.

In the report, support for pupils with additional learning needs at Vale schools was good, and inspectors said that the council has "strengthened the range of specialist provision" for pupils, and meets the needs of vulnerable learners well. Inspectors noted that there were low numbers of surplus places, and that almost all pupils obtain places at their first preference school. The number of fixed term exclusions is among the lowest in Wales.

Overall, services were described as "adequate".

Attendance levels for both primary and second-

ary pupils were judged to be in line with similar schools in Wales.

A council spokesperson said: "The performance of schools in the Foundation Phase and at key stage 4, and the percentage of learners remaining in education post-16, were in line with or above average – when the low level of deprivation was taken into account. Pupils who are more able generally perform better than expected."

"Taking into account the low level of deprivation in the Vale, Estyn considered that the performance of schools at key stage 2 and 3 needed to improve, and a few under-performing schools had not been identified quickly enough."

"According to the report, arrangements for evaluating the outcomes of initiatives need to be more robust."

Jennifer Hill, the chief learning and skills offi-

cer, said: "The latest Estyn report has helped bring into focus the areas in which we're performing well, and those which need more attention."

"Since the inspection we have seen some improvements in school performance, particularly at key stage 3."

"An action plan to address the key recommendations of the report is being drawn up and we will be working hard to ensure these recommendations are acted upon and that improvements are made as a result."

The Vale council's cabinet member for children's services, Coun Chris Elmore, said: "The inspectors underlined many aspects of our service which we're proud of, including our successful partnership working, that fewer pupils are leaving full-time education without a recognised qualification, and that performance in Welsh as a second language was found to be above average in both primary and secondary schools."

"However, there is still work to be done in driving up standards in

our schools and also taking steps to challenge and support schools which are under-performing."

However, there was criticism from Plaid Cymru's Coun Ian Johnson, who said: "The Vale really should be doing better than this."

"Too many children leave Vale schools without any qualifications, there is a growing gap between girls and boys' achievements in primary school and four of our eight secondary schools rank in Wales' bottom quarter for outcomes at Key Stage 3."

"That is not acceptable and I look forward to seeing the Vale's action plan to deal with these criticisms and improve standards to give our children the best life chances in future."

The Welsh Government has spent too much time on initiatives and reviews which distract from the basics of education. They should let teachers get on with teaching."

"Children in the Vale work very hard and should not be let down."

The Welsh Government funds mental health unit

UNIVERSITY Hospital Llandough is to have a purpose built 'acute mental health unit' thanks to Welsh Government funding of nearly £88 million.

Cardiff and Vale University Health Board had applied for the grant of £87.9 million to provide a modern adult mental health unit on the University Hospital Llandough site.

When it is built it will comprise 135 beds and will support improved patient recovery, and result in fewer residents being cared for out of area.

The scheme brings together all general adult mental health inpatient services from Whitchurch Hospital and the Llanfair Unit in Llandough Hospital.

It also incorporates specialist services for clients requiring low secure, addiction, neuro-

psychiatry, intensive care, supportive recovery services along with associated therapy and support services.

Health Minister Mark Drakeford said: "This new unit will give patients who access mental health services a sense of dignity and safety and I am pleased the Welsh Government funding has made it possible."

Andrew RT Davies, the Leader of the Welsh Conservatives, welcomed the facility, pointing out that it would be an opportunity to develop expertise in the area of mental health, but did not solve other concerns.

He said: "This much needed investment does not, however, address wider concerns about the long term sustainability of local services, particularly if the Welsh Government refuses to reverse their £800 million cuts to the Welsh NHS."

Vote on Barry fire station plan

LAST Monday (September 23), the Fire Authority met to vote on proposals concerning Barry in the South Wales Fire and Rescue Fire Cover Review.

The proposal for Barry was to keep one whole time crew at the station, and replace the other whole time crew with a retained crew.

In its notes about responses received from members of the public, the Fire Authority said that 64 per cent had been in favour of the proposal, and 36 per cent against.

The Fire Authority unanimously agreed to approve the proposals.

READER'S LETTER

HOUSING NEEDS AND THE LDP

FURTHER to the recent article headed "Adjust housing target in line with population change" (GEM, September 16), while I agree that figures quoted in the article are factually correct, Coun Johnson would appear misinformed about how the council calculates the housing need for the Local Development Plan (LDP).

The LDP's housing need is based on Household projections, and not just population growth. Population projections only predict the possible number of people, whereas 'household projections' project the number of households (households are defined as one person living alone or a group of people living at the same address).

It is the household projections that are used as a base to calculate the number of dwellings that are required for LDPs and as such, an increase in the number of homes for one or two people could require an increase in housing, without an

increase in population.

When the Replacement Deposit LDP is released in October it can only work on existing figures until more up-to-date household projections are released by the Welsh Government.

Therefore, the 2008-based household projections are still the right and proper starting point for the LDP dwelling requirements, as they are still the latest official local authority household projections.

The LDP should be based on sound evidence and it would not be statistically robust to attempt to produce new household projections before the new information is available, hopefully by the end of the year.

The current LDP process will allow the council to reconsider the housing need figure once the new information is available from Welsh Government and I can assure residents that we will ensure the most up-to-date and accurate information is used.

Coun Lis Burnett, (Cabinet member for regeneration, innovation, planning and transportation)

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Rhian Francis & Rhys Nelson - The Place For Homes Ltd.

See Next Weeks Newspaper For Details!

SALE BEGINS FRIDAY 4TH OCTOBER AT 10AM

ALL ITEMS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY

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TEACHING CHILDREN HOW TO PROTECT THEMSELVES FROM ONLINE GROOMING...

WHEN I worked in child protection in the old Mid Glamorgan Social Service, we used to talk to parents about the need to tell their children not just about 'stranger danger' when it came to child abuse.

We were very aware of the risk of sexual abuse from friends and relatives needing to be taught to children.

I don't think any of us ever imagined the horrors of adults using blackmail to force children to perform sexual acts over the internet or their being blackmailed by threats to send obscene images of them to their family and

friends. It has been horrific to read of the fear, degradation and shame felt by the children who have been lured into acts by people posing as other children on the internet.

As parents and grandparents, we have to take responsibility for protecting children from this new method of abusing our children. This has always been a

MADELEINE MOON, MP for Bridgend, looks at mounting concerns over child abuse via the internet, and warns - "Don't ignore it, report it!"



subject parents have found difficult to approach.

Parents have sought to preserve innocence for as long as possible, but with children as young as two playing with iPads and internet games, this new responsibility becomes ever pressing.

As an Internet Watch Foundation Champion, I have a role in alerting parents, grandparents and children of the risks they face on the internet.

The Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (Ceop) has revealed that grooming for online abuse often starts with perpetrators researching the victim's location, school and other details, often obtained from information on a social networking site.

The abuser uses the information to present a convincing picture of themselves as a local young adolescent.

Most social networking sites are open to

youngsters over 16, but children as young as eight have been victims.

It is time to sit down and talk in a new way with our children about how to protect themselves on line and the risks of putting too much information into the public domain on social networking sites.

I spent time recently with the Metropolitan Police crimes unit in London. I came away shocked at the ease with which criminals were abusing our trust on the internet to earn millions from scams and false websites.

I am not the world's most technically advanced computer-user, so learning about botnets, DDos, and phishing has left me even more nervous of buying on the internet and opening hyperlinks in unknown emails.

I will start by looking at Phishing, which involves sending bogus spam emails, which often look like legitimate

organisations, that seek to encourage an individual to visit a fake site where the victim is encouraged to provide personal and/or financial information.

After the information has been entered the site appears to collapse, only to be replaced by the real site and the victim does not realise they have been duped into revealing confidential information.

Bizarrely, as I was writing this article, I decided to check my hotmail account and there was a message from the Co-operative Bank telling me to install a new security module immediately.

The person who sent this phishing email had poor command of English, so it was easy to spot.

It was easier to spot the attempted fraud than to find the right person in the Co-op fraud department to forward the email to.

I was asked to forward the email to ihaveseennascam@co-operativebank.co.uk and did so, a little worried about botnets.

A botnet can sit on a number of computers while unknown to the owners and is activated at a later date to forward

spam, viruses, or as part of DDos attacks.

DDoS are Distributed Denial of Service attacks. Often they are the reason why a government website, a bank, internet sales site or your mobile phone website is offline.

The websites crash, with a huge volume of people trying to contact it at the same time. This can be organised through the use of botnets, especially if arranged by criminal gangs seeking to extort money from a company before restoring service.

A major bank in the Netherlands had such an attack some months ago and all of its banking services collapsed.

The bank went public to explain what had happened, but many companies hide the attack under a 'computer has crashed' story and pay up, for fear of undermining public confidence.

My interest in all of this stems from the fear of a cyber attack that could remove critical national infrastructure, such as electricity, gas, water and telephone systems, as part of an attack on the UK.

It is not just concern about sexual predators and abusers and criminals - we all have to

learn to protect ourselves on the internet. Cyber attacks have already been used as acts of war against at least two countries to close down national infrastructure.

Computers and the internet have become a central part of our lives so very quickly. We have passed through an age of innocence where the web was seen as a free and open space.

Sadly, we must all now recognise that its open spaces can hide dangers - we all need to recognise and learn the skills to protect ourselves.

If you have a phishing email like me, go to http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/report_fraud and follow the questions to see how you can report the attempt to defraud you.

Internet crime is estimated to cost the UK more than £27 billion each year. It is no joke.

If your children are worried by posts on social network sites, find the report button, usually in the top right hand side of the page and report it and have the person blocked from further communications.

Don't ignore internet crime. Report it!

FIREFIGHTERS SAY STRIKE ACTION 'WELL SUPPORTED'

AS The GEM was going to press yesterday (Wednesday) firefighters across south Wales were taking part in industrial action over their pension arrangements.

Mark Watt of the Firefighters' union told The GEM there had been strong support from members for the four-hour strike from 12 noon to 4pm.

He said: "The action has had 100 per cent support throughout south Wales. We hope this will put pressure on the Welsh Government."

Before action got under way, South Wales Fire and Rescue Service said it had made preparations, including six fire engines, crewed by military firefighters, with full firefighting capability, strategically placed at operational bases across the South Wales Fire and Rescue Service (SWFRS)

area - one at Abertillery, Newport, Bridgend, Pontypridd and two in the Cardiff area.

Assistant chief fire officer, Rod Hammerton, said: "In addition to these military fires crews, there will be a small amount of resources provided from Mid and West Fire and Rescue Service and one auxiliary fire crew from SWFRS."

"Auxiliary Firefighters will form a reserve force that are trained by SWFRS training department in basic fire and rescue skills, and are able to support professional crews or deal with the less critical hazardous incidents."

He added: "We will continue to deliver against our statutory obligations to the best of our ability with the very limited resources that are at our disposal, and will prioritise deployment of the available resources with a focus on the protection of life."

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Readers' Letters

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We will (in certain circumstances) protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, DON JOHN, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7E OR email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

PRAISE FOR AM's STANCE ON ISSUE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

IWOULD like to write in praise of Jane Hutt AM's column in The GEM on September 12, headlined 'Strategies for tackling domestic abuse in Wales'.

It highlighted the triumvirate of funding, legislation and leadership needed to address 'the scourge of violence against women' through the Welsh Government's proposed 'Ending Violence Against Women Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Bill'.

Welsh Women's Aid has worked for many years towards these new tools to protect women and children from violence and strongly agrees with a preventative and proportionate approach.

We also agree with the plea for the Welsh Government to maintain the elimination of violence against women and girls as a top priority.

WVA member Atal Y Fro has also recently secured new funding to prioritise early intervention in this area, which is a great step forward.

Welsh Women's Aid's three main priorities for the new Bill are: A reduction in the prevalence of all forms of violence against women, and support for women who experience such violence; guaranteed access to adequate and sufficient services for women in Wales; compulsory initiatives in schools and other educational settings to prevent VAW before it starts, and for supporting pupils affected by such violence.

Paula Hardy, Cardiff,
(Chief Executive, Welsh Women's Aid).

Funding: 'actions speak louder than words'

IREFER to the letter in The GEM (September 19 issue) from our MP, Mr Alun Cairns, wherein he berates the Assembly Government for not giving enough funding to the Vale compared to other regions.

Maybe the Welsh Government could have done their sums marginally better, but they have been forced to work within the constraints imposed by his Government at Westminster – and more funding to any one region

means another region has to be deprived.

Mr Cairns is quick to point fingers at others, but has he had words with his own Tory Government about the massive hardship they are imposing upon those least able to cope?

He maintains that we have to suffer austerity measures to cut the national deficit – but seems singularly oblivious to how that deficit cutting suffers setbacks when handing out wealth to the already financially well padded – as his Government is doing with

tax cuts for the rich.

Or when pouring millions into fighting America's wars, as his Government was preparing to do with indecent haste only weeks ago.

Words from Mr Cairns may appear to show concern for his constituency, but his actions at Westminster support every unjust measure that his Government is imposing.

And as far as I am concerned, actions speak very much louder than words.

Marc Delaney, Barry.

Local residents need 'balanced information'...

FOLLOWING the article, Brecon Court residents say: "Our dream is to save the community", The GEM, September 19, a couple of residents at Brecon Court spoke to me about the meeting with local councillors and their officials last week and how they were left with the impression that the council had already made up its mind to redevelop.

The council's agenda handed out at the meeting was, to say the least, rather one-sided.

It described three options: firstly 'renovation' and that was summarised by officials with 16 negative points following a structural survey.

It may be helpful for residents to comment if they were to have a copy of that survey to read for themselves.

Option two was about demolition and rebuilding, ranging from 14 bungalows to 72 flats.

Hmmmmmm... I wonder how many homes developers would want to build on the site?

There is no mention of how much the council may get from selling the land.

The strange third option was to do nothing which was described as "not an option". However, it does seem as though that has been the approach for much of the past years.

This is a nice community of one-bedroom and bedsit properties in an attractive setting.

If it was to be redeveloped, I suspect the location will end up as the usual high-density, bland-looking blocks of flats.

More importantly, it will cause severe disruption for the elderly residents.

There is insufficient evidence available to form a view on the best way forward – but it does seem as though the residents and neighbours are not being consulted with balanced information.

Dennis Harkus,
FocusBARRY.

Lest we forget a wartime hero

IT is now almost 50 years since the death of a Barry war hero, Brigadier Arthur Felix-Williams, DSO, MC (born in 1896, died in 1965).

His funeral was in Chicago, USA, where he had been living for a short time with his son and daughter-in-law.

During the Second World War, he was ordered by Field Marshall Earl Wavell to raise an 18,000 strong guerrilla army with orders to "spy, harry and destroy" the Imperial Japanese Army, then threatening to over-run the India-Burma frontier.

He started out with 140 men and a budget of £1 million, calling his ragtag collection of tea-planters, soldiers and tribesmen the 'V-Force'.

They were armed with anything they could find or purloin – including ancient muzzle-loading rifles, blunderbusses and machetes – essential in

jungle warfare.

Their orders were to hold the frontier for six months, but they continued to do so for two years, accompanied at one stage by the RWF – Royal Welch Fusiliers; with whom my uncle, Reuben Eric Jones, served in Burma, for four years.

Brigadier Felix-Williams was so successful a bounty of £10,000 was put on his head – a huge fortune in those days.

He was never captured and left the army after the war, joining the Kenya Police Force and fighting the Mau-Mau in the bitter independence struggle there, after which he moved to the USA.

He is surely a strong contender for a blue plaque in his native Barry, and deserving of special mention at the Armistice Day Remembrance celebrations in November.
Christopher Short,
Barry.

Austerity and the cutbacks

IFELT I had to respond to the letter in the September 19 issue of The GEM, entitled 'Message to the elite'.

Let's trace the situation upwards – bus companies need to make a profit; WAG have cut the subsidy; a number of statutory services (education, health) have to be protected; year on year, the ConDem Government's austerity programme (affecting you and

me, not the 'bankers' who started the problem) is cutting the settlement to the Assembly – and this year it will make the 'pips squeak'!

Mr Alun Cairns MP is a Tory! He is part of the Government that is carrying out the 'cull' on the working class and disabled. If you want to blame anyone, direct your anger towards him and his despicable party!

A Phillips, Barry.



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Out and About with The GEM

WHAT'S ON IN YOUR AREA

National Quaker Week

QUAKERS in Britain will be marking

National Quaker Week (September 28 to October 6) by bringing a friend to meetings.

Spokesman Martin Plant explained: "Every year, we hold Quaker Week to encourage Quakers to talk about how their faith shapes their daily life and witness in the world.

Quakers will be ready to warmly welcome anyone, including friends who want to share in the stillness of Quaker worship."

Today (September 26) at 7pm, local Quakers will be hosting a free public lecture on 'the history of early Quakers' by Christine Trevett in Bridgend Quaker Meeting House, 87 Park Street, Bridgend.

Quakers will also hold a meeting for worship outside the Oxfam shop in York Street on Saturday September 28 at 11am.

Back to church

ZOAR Presbyterian Church Bonvilston will hold a 'Back to Church' on September 29 at 11am.

Family service/children's harvest thanks-

giving. Guest speaker: Mr Allen Hamlin; collection to go to Vale Foodbank (Trussel Trust). Call 01446 781309.

FoE meeting

ON October 1 at 7.30pm, Barry & Vale Friends of the Earth will be holding a meeting in the Sports and Social Club, on Redbrink Crescent, Barry Island, with a showing of the award-winning documentary 'Trashed' starring Jeremy Irons.

The branch was speaking at the rally against fracking, in the National Assembly, on Tuesday, September 24 and opposed three pre-fracking/drilling proposals in the Vale.

Bingo in Cowbridge

THE Royal British Legion social season in Cowbridge started with a bang last month, with the largest attendance ever, and you know what larger numbers mean - larger bingo prizes!

One couple scooped £175 and there was a buzz of excitement the whole evening. The buffet, prepared by the ladies, was as tasteful as ever, and the raffle prizes worth fighting

for!

Our next session will be on Thursday, October 3, so why not come and join us at the Lesser Hall, Cowbridge Town Hall? Don't forget to bring your own wine and lucky bingo dabber (to avoid the noise of scratching pens!).

Art Society

ON Thursday, October 3, Cowbridge Art Society will welcome artist Donna Crawshaw (daughter of celebrity artist and broadcaster Alwyn Crawshaw) who will give a demonstration.

The society meets on Thursday evenings at the Old Hall, Cowbridge (7pm - 9pm), and visitors or new members are welcome.

Macmillan's Sully coffee morning

A COFFEE and crafts morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support is being held in the Wilton Lounge, Sully Sports and Social Club at 11am on Thursday, October 3.

Contact elizabeth-granger1@hotmail.com.

Quiz night

TEAMS and individuals are invited to the annual fun quiz night with quiz master Paul Marks, on Friday October 4 at 7pm in Dinas Powys Parish Hall, Britway Road. The entry fee is £6 per person (max of 6 per team). Contact Barbara Daniels (029 20 512594).

Tax help

A FREE Tax/Help for Older People (TOP) surgery will be held at Roz Couzens' Chiropractic Surgery, Unit 4, Commercial House, Commercial Street, Llantwit Major on October 7 from 10am until midday. No appointment necessary; telephone 0845 601 3321 or 01308 488066.

Shadows Club

OCTOBER 8, Penarth Conservative Club, Stanwell Road (029 2030 9979) South Wales Shadows Club 8pm.

Dolls' house group's event for Noah's Ark charity

THE Mid Glamorgan Dolls' House and Miniaturist Group proudly supports the Noah's Ark Children's Hospital.

Last year, it held an event which raised £1,100 for the charity.

This year's annual Dolls' House Exhibition is on Saturday, October 12 from 10am-4pm at the Town Hall, Cowbridge. Entrance, adults £1, children over five, 50p.

Displays, sales tables, light refreshments. All proceeds to the Noah's Ark Children's Hospital charity.

Lifesaver training

WELSH Hearts are holding free one-off training for two hours once a month on Monday, October 14 at The Bear Hotel, Cowbridge from 7.30pm to 9.30pm.

Children over 10 years are welcome to attend with their parents, who will receive training in vital life-saving skills to deal with emergencies.

Contact Welsh Hearts on 07730 944700, or email sharon@welsh-hearts.org.

Band's gala concert

TICKETS for RAF St Athan Voluntary Band's 75th anniversary gala concert with the Morriston Orpheus Male Choir are now on sale.

Saturday, October 19, at 7.30pm, will see the Llantwit Major Leisure Centre resounding to the sounds of triumphal brass and voices as the 2013 National Eisteddfodd champion band join forces with the famous choir. Tickets available from Chris Davis Estate Agent, East Street, Llantwit Major (or telephone 01446 798527).

Toy and train sale

BARRY Leisure Centre in Greenwood Street is hosting the next toy and train sale on Sunday, September 29, between 10.30am-3pm.

The sister event under the banner of the Cardiff toy and train sale, has been taking place at Penarth Leisure Centre on a three-monthly basis (the next show there is on Saturday, October 12).

Customers can bring along surplus items for disposal, even if just for a free valuation.

Telephone 01643 702757 or 07966 694579; website www.chrisdyerfairs.co.uk.

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Brew for The Few charity fundraiser in Llantwit



The Vale MP, Alun Cairns, hosted a fundraising 'Brew for the Few' event last week to support the Royal Air Forces Association (RAFA) Barry branch.

The third annual event was held at The West House Hotel, Llantwit Major. Mr Cairns welcomed RAFA members, local residents, representatives from the Vale Older Peoples Strategy Forum and the Mayors of Llantwit Major and Barry, who all helped raise money at the coffee morning.

Mr Cairns said: "This is an important anniversary year in our history and we need to recognise the commitment and contribution shown by our servicemen and women."

"RAFA relies on the generosity of the public and its members to raise funds, and that's why I was delighted to work with Geoff Horton, chairman of the Barry RAFA branch, to arrange and host this coffee morning at The West House Hotel to help raise some much needed

monies for them."

Mr Horton thanked the MP for hosting the event and said: "All the money raised goes into welfare work within the RAF Association and 20 per cent is returned to me, as the branch honorary welfare officer,

which allows me to continue my work supporting those ex RAF and/or their partners, within the community.

"Advice or help is available by contacting me on 01446 740522 or via email geoff@horthy.co.uk."

ABOVE: The Vale MP is pictured with members and guests outside West House Hotel.

Ty Hafan lottery winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D793.

● £2,000: 001837.

● £10: 214434, 997354, 180641, 691635, 114110, 414491, 864818, 201082, 678712, 639572, 382351, 463703, 700175, 209633, 885334, 796072, 550820, 123303, 534584, 152106.

● £5: 814434, 994459, 405500, 967208, 400494, 283162, 782565, 389657, 967457, 411883, 391252, 303660, 835742, 517711, 417852.

571836, 566573, 132549, 854365, 354428, 138025, 731919, 116633, 754114, 163301, 125398, 868730, 329920, 979685, 802561, 816972, 713286, 201031, 355031, 218594, 666759, 199598, 699667, 126024, 371347, 294018, 166548, 160184, 551651, 491186, 773127, 919649, 920914, 130209, 621258, 366922, 906393, 708898, 119380, 759670, 781148, 455061, 000905, 000824.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2053 2300.

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FIRE HEROINES IN LINE FOR AWARDS

THREE brave staff members are in line for prestigious awards – for the cool and efficient way they coped with a freak fire at a south Wales nursing home where they work.

Registered nurse, Tessie Thomas, and care assistants Pat Scanlan and Shelley Jones sprang into action when a blaze engulfed a resident's room at the College Fields home in Barry in April.

Fighting their way through thick smoke and without thinking of their own safety, the staff carried the occupant, a man in his late eighties, to safety, and went on to

evacuate residents in adjacent rooms.

The courageous women have been short-listed as finalists at the Wales Care Awards at Cardiff City Hall on Friday, October 18.

They have been nominated in the health and safety category sponsored by Public Health Wales.

The trio have also been commended by a senior fire service officer for their "exemplary bravery and preparedness".

The blaze, described by Mike Kemp who has owned and run College Fields for the past 24 years, as a "one in a million" accident, broke out just before nine o'clock one evening.

It is believed to have

started when an electric fan heater fell from a unit in the corner of the room, possibly after having been brushed by curtains near the window.

Although the safety trip-switch initially turned off the heater, it switched itself back on when it fell awkwardly between the unit and the wall, bursting into flames.

Mr Kemp, who is vice-chair of Care Forum Wales, said the alarm system then went off and pinpointed the room where the fire had broken out.

"The staff on duty immediately went into their pre-practised fire procedure. While one of them phoned the fire service, others fetched the special 'ResQmats',

which are specialist emergency mats on which people can be pulled to safety," he explained.

"Two members of staff, Tessie and Pat went into the room where the fire had started and others went into the adjacent rooms.

"As the gentleman in the room where the fire was is non-ambulatory, he was rolled carefully on to the mat and taken to a pre-arranged safe area elsewhere in the building, where other staff members stayed with him and comforted him.

"Despite what had happened he was absolutely fine and as calm as could be.

"Firefighters wearing breathing apparatus, who were on the scene in just

four minutes, used our own foam and powder extinguishers – which amazingly had only been inspected that morning – to put out the fire, so luckily there was no water damage to the building."

Mr Kemp added: "What was unbelievable was the amount of smoke in the room where the fire started – that probably did more damage than the flames.

"But the girls who went into the room to rescue the resident were absolutely brilliant.

"Without their bravery, the incident would have resulted in severe problems or even death. They certainly deserve official recognition for their actions."

Pat Scanlan, 70, who lives in Barry and has worked at College Fields Nursing Home for the past eight years, said: "I don't suppose we thought there was too much danger at the time, or that we were being brave. All we knew is that we just had to get the resident out of that room. But I do think we saved his life."

Shelley Jones, 21, who lives in Rhose near Barry and has worked at the home for three years, said: "I didn't think about being a hero or anything like that, I was just thinking about keeping my residents safe.

"The residents were all fine but were a bit shocked about what had happened."



Three members of staff from College Fields care home in Barry who have been nominated for their courage and prompt action in saving an elderly resident, from left: Tessie Thomas, Shelley Jones and Pat Scanlan.

Freddie and friends on the road to Morocco!

GEM readers may remember our report of a Llancarfan student who was tackling a marathon cycling challenge in aid of charity.

We are pleased to report that Freddie John – an Oxford Brookes student from Llancarfan – recently completed his cycle to Morocco last week with his three fellow students.

They cycled from Oxford down the west coast of France via Madrid to Gibraltar – where they were greeted by the Governor, Sir Adrian Johns!

They then took a ferry from Algeiras to Cueta, and cycled five miles to reach Moroccan soil. The journey had taken exactly three weeks.

The cyclists raised around £5, 200 for the Mark Evison Foundation.

Mark was a former student at Oxford Brookes who was killed in Afghanistan while serving with the Welsh Guards.

The charity, founded to continue

Mark's legacy, supports young people to realise their dream, push themselves beyond their comfort zone, and face a challenge in the way that Mark Evison did.

The boys had received a grant from the foundation to fund their challenge.

The cycle ride was an arduous task particularly in the Spanish heat.

Freddie said, "Every day were were up by 6am, packing up our campsite and on the road for 100 miles.

"France was much easier than Spain, where the heat and the hills were challenging. On occasions the temperature reached was between 40–45 degrees centigrade!

"We had to make sure we drank enough liquids and we burnt an average of 5,000 calories a day."

The boys have now gone straight back to lectures but their experience in terms of planning, budgeting, fundraising and physical endurance and has been life enhancing.

GEM READERS' LETTERS EXTRA...

Awful misuse of language

IS IT ME? I am becoming paranoid by the misuse of the English language.

Firstly, when some people are being interviewed or questioned, they keep saying "You know...you know".

The questioner doesn't know, which is why they are questioning!

Next: the use of "awfully" and "terribly" when referring to nice,

lovely, pretty, etc.

How can it be 'nice' if it is awful?

Then there are people saying "anything" instead of anything. I left school at 14 years of age, as I was unable to go on further because my parents could not afford the fees.

I was taught the fundamentals of English, which has carried me through the years.

Mrs Heveron, Rhose

Scout jumble raised £1,100

THE Cowbridge Scout jumble sale held at the Scout Hall on Saturday September 21 was a big success with takings of over £1,100.

This is even more than last year, which was a record then.

Despite the damp morning, a good number of people turned up and it was nice to see regulars, who have been coming for many years.

Thanks to all the helpers, without whom it would not happen, to the people who donated clothing etc and to those who came to enjoy the scrum.

David Weber, Llanblethian



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How those summer blockbusters fell well short of expectations

A BRITISH summer is renowned for flattering to deceive. It always offers the promise of hot weather and sunshine, but rarely delivers.

Despite this summer bucking that trend, a similar attitude can be taken with Hollywood and their summer blockbuster season – we're promised so much, but are often left feeling disappointed.

Unlike the British summer, it can be argued that Hollywood may have brought the heat, but the fun in the sun was severely lacking.

The big winner of the summer was *Iron Man 3*.

which may have divided those in the critics' chairs (I personally felt that, climax aside, it was easily the best of the series) but didn't divide audiences, ratcheting up an astounding \$1.2 billion, making it the fifth biggest film of all time.

However, not all superheroes had the best summer. Hugh Jackman's sixth outing as *Wolverine* was possibly his best, but again *The Wolverine* found critical and box office acclaim hard to muster, even though in a summer of destruction and carnage, its Japanese-flavoured themes gave it a lot more substance amongst the competition.

Meanwhile, Zack

Snyder's *Man of Steel* may have banked plenty of cash, but again was hampered by a lack of critical love, in a film that failed to live up to the hype but has set in motion further instalments – the pressure on its sequel, featuring a certain Caped Crusader, will be big.

Proven franchises also saw a mixed summer – with *Star Trek Into Darkness* going darker but failing to really break new ground (even if the box office receipts were good), while *The Hangover 3* took the award for worst film of the summer (and possibly the year) as any charm was left at the door of a piece of work that had no cohesion,

jokes or entertainment values whatsoever.

The *Fast & Furious* franchise was a big winner, the sixth installment a ludicrous, daft but hugely satisfying offering (a seventh is on its way next year), and *Monsters University* provided a pleasing diversion, even if it was slightly below the high standards that are expected from Pixar.

The children's champion, however, was *Despicable Me 2*, which charmed its way to \$750 million and also made those who watched snigger ever so slightly any time the word 'bottom' is mentioned.

It was a slightly better summer for original blockbusters, with *Pacific Rim* smashing an already shell-shocked audience to bits, its robots-versus-giant-creatures set-up an old-school delight, while *Now You See Me* cast its magic over cinemagoers.

A world ruptured by all things zombie cast off the foreboding pre-release gossip of *World War Z* to take that film to over \$500 million, but it was worse news for the established Hollywood A-listers, as Will Smith (*After Earth*), Tom Cruise (*Oblivion*) and Bruce Willis (*Red 2*) all saw their blockbusters stumble and fall. Perhaps the biggest



by GARETH JAMIESON
Follow Screen Talk on Twitter – @GEMScreenTalk

story of the summer was the destruction of *The Lone Ranger*, a film Disney hoped would become as lucrative a franchise (though hopefully not as creatively bereft) as *Pirates of the Caribbean*.

Instead, poor reviews and generally negative press sank the film without even giving it a chance, a shame as in a middling summer it was easily one of the more enjoyable blockbusters.

If this summer was being graded, then it would be told that it has shone at times, excelled periodically – but the overall message would be that it could, and should, try harder – something that summer 2014 should take heed of...

Merry Maidens and Dawn's Men – the mystery set in stone!

TINKINSWOOD is a short distance from St Nicholas in the Vale of Glamorgan, and was once an ancient village – some 6,000 years ago.

All that remains now of a bustling settlement is its burial chamber. Siambar Gladu Tinkinswood (its Welsh equivalent) is also known as Castell Carreg Llech-y-Filiast.

It is a megalithic structure made during the Neolithic period of our history.

It is an edifice typical of structures built in Europe, and is called a dolmen, which has an outward appearance of a large capstone, and smaller stones (made of limestone) supporting it.

The top stone weighs a staggering 40 tons, and is 24 x 14 feet long.

Its construction would have employed around 200 strong and sturdy men to lift it into position above the smaller stones, and was probably then covered with a mound of soil.

It is a long wedge-shaped cairn containing a rectangular stone chamber, and decorated by a horned forecourt with dry stone masonry and a herringbone pattern.

The presence of the stone-lined pit remains a mystery, but it is believed that the bodies of the dead were left exposed to the elements for a short time before being interred in the chamber for a cultured burial.

Typical of the period, soft red Neolithic ware and Beaker style pottery were buried alongside their loved ones in the hope of eternal life.

These burial traditions probably carried forward into the Bronze Age era. Thought to be the largest burial chamber in Europe, it is situated on a sloping valley which would have had a desirable outcome on village life at the time.

The valley had a stream for necessary water, good soil for growing crops, and suitable stone for constructing tombs to give the deceased an honourable place of rest.

The site of this amazing burial chamber was excavated in 1914, when the remains of 920 human bones were discovered, scattered around.

The archaeologists established that at least 50 people were buried in the chamber from the 'New Stone Age' period in our history. Within the hollow, Neolithic and Bell-Beaker style pottery was unearthed, giving indications that it was in use over a long period of time.

Ceremonial pots were buried with loved ones, and this type of pottery was also unearthed during the excavation.

The Neolithic people

were thought to have been ruthless and would deliberately break or give away their most treasured possessions, for what reason remains unknown.

This theory would explain the fragments of pottery found in 1914.

Following the excavation, parts of the site were reconstructed, a pillar was inserted for support, and its outer walls re-clad.

The site is now managed by Cadw, and the structure is rated as a monumental building within the heritage of Wales.

There are many legends, or even myths, rebounding from such chambers of an ancient era, which include spending time after nightfall at the sinister tomb.

Performing such a vigil would result in that person either going raving mad, be struck dead, or emerging as a poet!

The mound or mountain top and its surrounding stones were believed to be women who had been cast into stone for dancing on the Sabbath day, a macabre belief shrouded in mystery.

Could this legend be the reason for a person's downfall?

Another legend associated with dolmens, the Merry Maidens, were also known as Dawn's Men. This was not linked to the sunrise at dawn, but is a version of Dans Maen, which means Stone Dance in Cornish.

It is a similar legend to that of the Merry

Maidens, as 19 women were cast into stone for dancing on a Sunday, but this tale had pipers playing tunes for the women to dance to.

The two pipers were allegedly cast into stone too – only they stand in a field in the meadow to the north-east of the burial tomb.

These legends may have been initiated by the early Christian church, whose intention was to forbid pagan rituals being performed.

Legend maintains that burial tombs of this type are cloaked in secrecy, magic and myth, and an intriguing tale involves the shoeing of horses around the area of the mound.

These good-natured animals would be left alone for a short period of time, in order for their master to prepare for the task.

On his return, the horse is said to have been mysteriously shod and the silver coins of payment gone. Was this tale of folklore linked to fairy magic?

Burial chambers have also been known to have adopted the name 'snivelling corner', as the tears of the mourners are said to echo through the chamber and its stones are believed to be weeping.

Could these tales be true, or merely a mass figment of imagination from ancient times?

Fact or fiction? Only you can decide...

HAYLEY WILLIAMS
hayley.williams550@yahoo.co.uk

Kaine off to see WWE Superstars



KAINE FOLLOWS HIS DREAM

THE charity 'Follow Your Dreams' made a surprise visit to a pupil in Ysgol Erw'r Delyn, Penarth last week.

Kaine Raisis is a devoted fan of WWE and was presented with tickets to see WWE Superstars at the Motorpoint Arena in November.

Along with the tickets, he received a signed photo of John Cena, a t-shirt,

a baseball cap and other merchandise.

Kaine will also have access to the VIP area and will (hopefully) meet some of the wrestling stars. The smile on his face says it all!

He is pictured above with his Dad, Darren Raisis, carer, Aaron Hawxwell and Liz Whittaker from the charity 'Follow Your Dreams'.

Question time for the Vale MP

YSGOL Bro Morgannwg in Barry recently invited Alun Cairns to be quizzed by their students, as part of their Welsh Baccalaureate studies.

The Vale MP was invited to talk to year-12 students who had recently been researching and studying parliamentary process, as part of their qualification.

The year group of 80 students were keen to hear from Mr Cairns about his personal journey to become a politician, and what a typical day entails for a Member of Parliament.

The discussion ranged from local bus service cutbacks to the issues surrounding Syria.

Mr Cairns said: "I certainly had a grilling and didn't expect there to be so many budding Jeremy Paxmans at the school."

"Many young people do not vote, I believe, because they may not necessarily understand the impact they can have. This wasn't the case at Ysgol Bro

Morgannwg.

"They had an excellent, detailed understanding of such a wide range of issues. I was impressed by their knowledge and confidence to challenge each other and me on several points."

"I hope my contribution provided them with an insight into the political system and the role of MPs, and I look forward to meeting the students again in the future – perhaps on a political platform!"

ROTARY DRIVE

BRIDGEND Rotary Club is holding an informal membership evening on Thursday, October 17, at the Heronston Hotel (7pm).

Contact Rotarian Sonja Cain on 07580 807954, or Rotarian Elwyn Williams on 07774 480162.

Eye health awareness



JONES & Jones Opticians, High Street, Barry, recently held an open day celebrating National Eye Health Week.

They had an impressive display and literature on hand, along with all the staff to help with any questions.

Dr Adrian Jones, specialist IP optometrist, said: "We were delight-

ed with the response and the awareness raised of eye health in general."

Raffle winners were: first, Mr J Thompson, complete spectacle with high performance custom-made lenses from Hoya; second, Mrs J Winter, designer sunglasses; third, Miss K Lake, 'Eating for Eye Health' cookbook; fourth, Miss L Bryl, 'See Better' veg box.

The GEM is in partnership with the Dog's Trust to find caring homes for animals in their charge at Bridgend Rehoming Centre (Telephone 01656 725219)

Busy Bizzie is full of fun!



BIZZIE BY NAME, BUSY BY NATURE!

BIZZIE is a three-year-old Lurcher who is full of fun – Bizzie by name, busy by nature!

She enjoys the company of other dogs, and is lovely with people. As she is quite a bouncy girl, she would best suit children over the age of eight.

She is housetrained, fine to be left alone for a few hours and is good travelling in the car. She really loves her off-lead exercise, and will make a wonderful companion for any lurcher fan out there,

who will enjoy her fun and games.

If you would like to know more about Bizzie, please call 01656 725219, or pop into Dogs Trust Bridgend – we are open 12pm-4pm every day except Monday, with late night opening on a Wednesday until 7.30pm.

You can see Bizzie and some of her friends on the website at www.dogstrust.org.uk.

LINDA FEAGAN
Supporter Relations Officer, Bridgend

Company puts Poppy appeal on the road



THE Bridgend branch of the Royal British Legion was delighted to receive a cheque from John Raymond Transport recently for £260.

The company decided to support the Poppy appeal by buying poppies which are fixed to the fronts of their vehicles, pointing the way to the annual Remembrance appeal.

Richard Payne, shift transport manager at John Raymond Transport depot, based at Bridgend Industrial Estate, who served with the Royal Logistic Corps, said: "John Raymond established the family business in 1953 - 60 years of transporting goods and products across the UK is no mean achievement."

"This truly is a family business, with John's son, Jonathon, as chief executive officer, his brother Andrew the legal director, and Mr Paul Johns the managing director."

With approximately 100 vehicles and 120 drivers and staff, this is one of the largest family-run transport com-

panies in Wales.

The above photograph shows Mr Richard Payne, shift manager, Mr Ken Dominey, driver, both ex-forces, with Mr Jamie Brown, driver, and Major Wayne Morgan MBE, chairman of the Bridgend branch RBL.

Major Morgan said: "It really is heart-warming and reassuring to receive such solid support for the Poppy appeal from local businesses and to see that ex-service veterans are a valued and important part of the workforce, contributing significantly to the local economy."

"It is pleasing to hear that Richard is raising money for various charities throughout the year and has this year completed a long distance run from Colwyn Bay to Swansea Bay, raising £5,000 for a local charity, Healing the Wounds, and a further marathon effort driving across the UK to all 92 football league clubs, raising £3,000, covering approximately 3,000 miles."

"He is to be hugely congratulated on his achievements."

Cycling star hosts question and answer session in local pub!

THE Vale's cycling star, Nicole Cooke, will be home in Wick for two days (September 26/27) to visit local schools and hold a question and answer session.

Following her recent retirement, the visit is intended to thank locals for their support, and also to "tie up a few loose ends."

Her mum, Denise, explained: "When Nicole took the gold medal at the Beijing Olympics, we received

so many donations to fund a celebration.

"Nicole wants to donate the remainder of that money to local organisations that she belonged to growing up here in Wick."

Nicole has split the donation three ways, and presents will go to Wick and Marcross Primary School, the local playgroup, and the local Girl Guides. She plans to visit all three groups over the two days.

However, the final event will be much more public, and cycling fans around the Vale are

invited on Friday evening, September 27, starting at 7.30pm, to the Lamb and Flag, Wick, for a question and answer session.

The event is free, and Nicole will show film of the closing stages of the 2002 Commonwealth Games and the 2008 Olympics, and analyse her tactics in big races such as these.

Denise Cooke added: "The village celebrated after Nicole's wins - and her losses. Come along and have a great night as Nicole answers questions on her career."

Penarth man at Number 10

NEIL HITCHEN of Penarth, who now installs double glazing, was among entrepreneurs (formerly unemployed and on benefits, before becoming their own bosses) invited by Prime Minister David Cameron to 10 Downing Street to talk about how the New Enterprise Allowance (NEA) helped them set up their own companies.

They all benefited from free business mentoring and support from the NEA, which has been delivered in Wales by A4e, on behalf of the Department for Work and Pensions, since July last year.

Author pays tribute to the legend of Guto

RIGHT: Author GARY MARSH.

WELSH author and historian Gary Marsh will give a talk on 'Guto: Story of the Nos Galan Road Races', at Barry Uniting Church, Barry, on October 1 (7.30pm).

Based on his new book of the same name, the lecture will form part of the buildup to the 55th anniversary of the world-famous Nos Galan Road Races, which are held in Mountain Ash every New Year's Eve.

They were founded by Barry-born Bernard Baldwin MBE in 1958, to commemorate the remarkable life of legendary Welsh athlete Guto Nythbran.



Christmas Party Guide

DON'T DAWDLE AND DITHER... *Make that* Christmas booking

WHEN it comes to booking that work do (or office party) for Christmas, just about the worst thing you can do is think too much and try too hard.

There is, of course, a great deal of pressure involved - it would be foolish to deny that.

The trouble is, that desire to get everything quite right can be your worst enemy, and it can lead to the main pitfall of party planning -

being too late to get your choice.

It soon gets round the office that the 'first choice' was already booked - and then the second, and so on until the word among the staff is that it has all gone pear-shaped and

that everyone has to make do with a place that was nowhere near first on the list.

Workplaces often get in this position when they set up a 'party group' who research the options, have a few meetings, talk endlessly,

and then go home having failed to agree.

In the meantime, popular venues in the area are taking bookings and filling up.

While this 'party group' have the best intentions, the whole thing so often fails to come together, because the more opinions that are offered, the more complicated it all gets.

Oops! There goes another popular venue - all booked up.

However, if the working party gets stuck in and makes a firm, early decision, then what happens is that everyone in the office adjusts - because they know it was not a last-minute choice.

It won't be perfect for everyone - no place ever is, but it was a choice - not a last minute substitute.

So, if you draw the short straw and are involved in planning the office party, remember that the worst thing you can do is let the process drag on.

You might end up with a brilliant venue, but the delay will mean that some fellow workers will approach the evening with suspicion.

Here in the Vale, diners are spoiled for choice, because keen competition keeps standards high.

It's far more important to make a firm decision than to get stuck in a spiral of pointless research.

The moral of this Christmas tale is simple: Be decisive, don't dilly dally, and get your venue booked now!

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ROAST BEEF
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RIBEYE STEAK
with chips and salad (*extra £5*)

SALMON
served with seasonal vegetables

£19.95 per person

(£10 deposit required - Minibus available £5 return)

Party Nights 6th, 7th, 13th, 20th & 21st December
Other nights available without entertainment

Kids' Halloween Party

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£5.50 per head

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SALMON FILLET
GAMMON STEAK
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CHRISTMAS PUDDING
MIXED FRUIT TRIFLE
PROFITEROLES

★★★★

COFFEE AND MINTS

£16.00 per person



Christmas Party Guide



LAUNCH OF ITS NEW MENU ADDS TO THE GLENBROOK'S GROWING REPUTATION

THE Glenbrook Inn Freehouse and Restaurant already has a justifiable reputation for its famed Sunday lunches – now it has launched a new menu which will appeal to its seven day a week dining clientele.

The menu comprises starters, light bites, omelette bar, jacket potatoes, 'Around The World' – a cosmopolitan selection of dishes from different continents – traditional pub favourites, 'Burgers and Grills' and 'vegetarian and gluten free'.

My wife and I visited The Glenbrook on a Thursday evening and were served by Leigh.

I'm a fish lover, so for a starter I chose the 'crab cakes' (£4.75) a blend of brown and white crab meat, coated with crispy coriander-flavoured breadcrumbs, served with a chilli-dip and salad garnish.

In the past, I've steered away from crab, suspecting it might be too strong a flavour. I was pleasantly surprised because it was mild, smooth in texture and light and easy on the palate.

For a starter at £4.25, my wife had the chilli chicken strips, served with a sweet chilli sauce. She found the chicken nice

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

and moist and enjoyed the crunchiness of the outer coating. It was cooked to perfection and not over-done.

On to the main course – my wife plumped for a dish from the enticing 'Around the World' section, which was chicken fajitas at a very reasonable £5.95. It consisted of spicy chicken, pepper and onions with tomato salsa, soured cream and guacamole, wrapped in flower tortillas. This was also served with a good mixed side salad.

The fajitas were well stuffed with a good selection of juicy, spicy chicken. The other fillings and tomato salsa really brought out the flavour of the chicken. It proved a filling and satisfying course, hitting just the right note.

I opted for a dish from the vegetarian and gluten free range – sweet potato and spinach curry at £7.25. The dish comprised sweet potato and spinach in a rich coconut sauce, served with rice or chips, or half and half.

This was a lovely curry with the coconut sauce giving it a rich, full flavour. Tracey, the chef, had excelled herself on this one.

For the desserts I had the 'flourless

chocolate torte', which was luxuriously rich and creamy – great for a chocoholic!

My wife had the raspberry and white chocolate cheesecake served with summer fruit compote, and raspberry coulis, which she enjoyed very much. Although she claims not to have a sweet tooth, she even stole part of my torte! The desserts were £3.95 and £4.95.

It meant we had dined at around £15 per person – excellent value – along with generous portions. Leigh provided friendly, attentive service throughout.

For those who want an extra deal, the 'Around The World' section even has an offer of two main courses for just £12; while the 'Burgers and Grills' section will offer a selection of certain dishes, 'any two for £8'. The pub-restaurant is also a freehouse, which means there's a great selection of beers and wines to go with your meal.

The Glenbrook on Dobbins Road, is a community-minded pub, providing quality dishes at affordable prices, and deserves its success.

Dining is highly recommended. It will be advisable to book early for those special days spanning the Christmas period.

TIM CHAPMAN

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Bookings now being taken

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Served with a cranberry & plum compote

DUCK & ORANGE PATE

Served with a seasonal compote & crusty bread

TRIO OF MELON

Served with a port & ginger syrup

ROAST TURKEY

Roast breast of turkey served with pigs in blanket & apricot stuffing

ROAST LOIN OF PORK

Served with bubble & squeak with apple & cider sauce

PAN FRIED BEEF MEDALLIONS

A trio of fillet medallions with wild mushrooms & finished with a brandy & cream sauce

ROASTED SEABASS

With chilli & spring onions and Duchesse potato

GOATS CHEESE & RED ONION TARTLETT

Served with balsamic glaze & green salad

TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS PUDDING

Served with brandy sauce

RUM & RAISIN PANNA COTTA

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TRADITIONAL SHERRY TRIFLE

CRANBERRY BREAD & BUTTER PUDDING

With orange custard

BAILEYS & CHOCOLATE CHEESECAKE

CHEESE & BISCUITS

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Available Sunday to Thursday (restaurant only)

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2 glasses of wine or 2 small bottles of beer or 2 glasses of Coke.

ROYAL SET MEAL

Normally £36.95 - NOW only £30

Available Sunday-Saturday (restaurant only)

Starter: Junga King Prawn Puree and Chicken Tikka Root.

Main Course: Chicken Tikka Massalla, Lamb Bhoona, Broccoli Bahji, Mushroom Fried Rice, Naan and Coffee.

Bottle of House red or white wine or 2 large Cobra beers.

Special Christmas Party Menu available!

Bookings now being taken.

Lunchtime party bookings must be booked in advance (minimum of 10 people)

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12.00 noon - 2.30pm (bookings only)

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School's Kenyan partnership is going from strength to strength!

AS some GEM readers will know, Barry Comprehensive School is involved in a connecting classroom project with a school in Kenya.

Both schools are committed to improving literacy and global citizenship. At the end of the last academic year, Barry welcomed the headmaster, Mr Thomas Okello, at an assembly with year-7.

He was entertained with songs from the school choir, a video diary of last year's visit to Kenya, and speeches by both senior staff and students, before being presented with a gift to help record his visit.

He was overwhelmed with the welcome and was looking forward to spending time at our school.

Over the course of the week, he was introduced to many departments within the school and was given the opportunity to take part in some of the lessons.

Mr Okello took part in an art lesson, visited the school garden and helped update resources in geography.

He also bought a large number of pen pal letters and gifts for our students who had been busy writing



ABOVE: Mr Okello teaching year-12 authentic Kenyan dishes.

ing to students in Lwanda Primary.

During his visit, Mr Okello taught workshops in drama, showing a variety of performances from young people in Kenya. Students were given the opportunity to discuss the issues dealt with in the plays and learn more about Kenya's culture.

These lessons were a huge success and students were even given the opportunity to learn some dance moves!

The catering department also benefited from a visit to their classroom when Mr Okello demonstrated how to prepare a local staple of the

Kenyan diet. Teachers and pupils observed and tasted two delicious dishes and were interested to learn more.

The visit also coincided with Barry Comprehensive School sports day, which gave us the chance to show our Kenyan visitor a taste of what Wales has to offer the world of sport.

At the end of the week, Mrs Ellis returned with Mr Okello to Kenya, for a reciprocal visit.

She returned to the school with a number of gifts from the staff and students in Barry and a plan to introduce

Shakespeare's Macbeth.

Students benefited from improvisation, and art workshops on the play were presented with winning scripts (written by our very own year-7 and 8) and after the success of last year's rugby session Mrs Ellis even attempted to introduce the sport of cricket.

The visits were a huge success and helped to cement the relationship between the two schools which we plan to sustain. This year's joint projects include more drama, and an art project, newsletters and a garden club link!

AC



Mr Davies and the gardening club show Mr Okello their work.



ABOVE: Harvesting time at Kobala Youth Group's first fish pond.



The Little Blue Deli

CHRISTMAS PARTIES with The Little Blue Deli



CHRISTMAS EVENING MENU

2 COURSES £14.95 • 3 COURSES £16.95

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Homemade seasonal organic soup
Tempura battered prawns with sweet chilli
Cajun cream mushrooms with homemade bread
Carrot & coriander fritters with grilled halloumi
Honey barbeque ribs
Satay chicken skewers with peanut sauce

Main Courses

Traditional turkey with all the festive bits
Roast beef with Yorkshire pudding
Lamb with honey and rosemary
10oz sirloin steak (£4 supplement)
Tapas feast - choose any 3 from our range of Tapas
Vegetarian festive roast
Salmon steak

Desserts

Christmas pudding with brandy sauce
Strawberry & champagne cheesecake
Waffles with maple syrup, honeycomb & ice cream
Cheese, homemade fruit pastes & biscuits
After eight ice cream sundae
Homemade chocolate fudge cake with cream

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Gideon Bibles for Vale Mayors



PICTURED (left to right): Coun Margaret Wilkinson, Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan; Coun Keith Geary, Mayor of Llantwit Major; Coun Claire Curtis, Mayor of Barry; Coun Neil Thomas, Mayor of Penarth; Coun Peter Knapp, Deputy Mayor of Cowbridge and Mr Graham Ellis.

THE Mayor of the Vale, Coun Margaret Wilkinson, recently hosted a reception in the Mayor's Parlour, Barry, for members of the local branch of the Gideons International, to present personally inscribed Bibles to the five mayors in the Vale.

Branch chairman Mr Graham Ellis, said that the Gideons distribute over 85 million copies annually in 196 countries, and in over 90 different languages.

International president Dr W E G Thomas will be visiting Barry on Saturday, October 26 for a public meeting at Cadoxton Methodist Church at 2.30pm.

Ben Kane to appear at local book festival

COWBRIDGE Book Festival's autumn series continues on Wednesday, October 9 with a presentation by best-selling author Ben Kane.

Ben's enthusiasm and passion for his chosen genre, historical fiction is evident; with his irresistible story-telling and meticulous research, he reveals ancient Rome in the raw.

His latest novel *Hannibal – Fields of Blood*, the second book in the Hannibal series, is yet another thrilling epic by this exciting and charismatic author.

Over the last two years Ben has followed Spartacus's trail across Italy and also visited Cannae the 'Fields of Blood' where Hannibal's army met the massed



Ben Kane.

legions of Rome; these journeys have inspired him to write believable and exciting fiction with a combination of historical fact that brings ancient Rome to vivid life for his readers.

Ben has not only travelled in Italy. In April he walked Hadrian's Wall in full Roman military uniform to raise money for charity and has promised to wear his Roman 'kit' when he comes to Cowbridge.

He will be at

Cowbridge United Free Church on October 9 at 7.30pm. Tickets are £5 to include a glass of wine.

Other events planned for October are: Crime Forum – with Chris Morgan Jones, MR Hall and William Ryan; the ever popular Terry Walton – The Allotment Almanac; and Genevieve Taylor – A Good Egg.

For further information including more detail on these books please visit the festival website www.cowbridge-bookfestival.co.uk.

All proceeds from these events will be donated to The Noah's Ark Appeal Children's Hospital of Wales and Leukemia and Lymphoma Research. Tickets are available from David Barnes (Dry cleaners) 35 High Street, Cowbridge; Nickleby's Pound Field, Llantwit Major, or online from TicketlineUK 02920 230130. Or telephone 01446 774827.

SR

Laurie coming home, to sing for his mum!

FORMER London solicitor Laurie Adams will come home to Barry on Saturday, October 5 to perform in the London Welsh Male Voice Choir concert at the Memorial Theatre – to raise funds for the local branch of the RNLI.

Lifeboat members and staff at Barry library have worked together to mount an exhibition in Barry library to mark the event.

Baritone Laurie will also compete this LWMVC concert, and is particularly pleased to be returning to a venue he remembers well:

"We used to have our local dances in the Memorial Hall, and my childhood was very happy growing up in Barry".

At the age of five, Laurie moved from Neath with his parents and sister Kate when his late father Hywel Adams took the job of head of electrical engineering at Barry College of Further Education.

"Dad was a keen radio ham and founded the Radio Society in Barry. I vividly recall hearing about the Czech uprising directly from Czechoslovakia on a wireless in our back garden in Colcot Road".

Fond memories include working at Butlins during the summer holidays and having a trip out on the Barry lifeboat with John Wells.

After attending Romilly schools and Barry Boys, where the choir classes led by Dyfrig Thomas (nicknamed 'Plum') made a lasting impression, Laurie studied law at Jesus College Oxford and went to London to practise as a solicitor.

In 2008, he began working part-time and joined London Welsh Male Voice choir, partly as a result of one of his other great passions – rugby.

"Having played full-back at school, I always followed the game and I played for London Welsh in the lower teams



Laurie Adams

for many years.

"Through this, I got to know some of the boys in the choir, including another Barry boy singing in the choir tonight, Phil Olsen, who was also a former chairman."

"I've had some fantastic experiences with LWMVC – my very first 'cap' was on the pitch at the Millennium Stadium at the Wales/Ireland Six Nations game in 2009."

"It was a fabulous occasion, especially being my first sing with the choir, but I had very mixed emotions about the day as Ireland went on to win their first Grand Slam since 1948!"

"Of course, singing with the choir at the closing ceremony of the London Olympics last year was absolutely unforgettable as well – really special."

Laurie still keeps busy professionally, having been drafted on to the board of Northern Rock after it crashed, and also runs a business coaching consultancy.

On October 5, he will be helping to ensure that the Barry concert runs smoothly and hopes that his mum Pearl (aged 90) will be able to come from Cardiff.

"I've got friends and relatives coming from all over Wales to Barry for this event, and if my Mum could make it, that would be special. Ar Hyd y Nos is her favourite number. When I play it in the car, she sings along and knows every word."

For tickets, go to www.barrymemorialtheatre.co.uk or telephone 01446 738622.

Plaudits and progress for English Speaking Union's local branch



Stanley Johnson (standing) with branch members Eddie Rabbiaotti, Julia Kelsall and John Webber.

Report and pictures by Heather March

THE south Wales branch of the English Speaking Union held its AGM at the Cardiff City Stadium where members were told branch membership is over 300 – making it the second largest branch after London.

The prestigious Rosebowl for the branch with the most effective media public relations was won for the second year running (thanks to The GEM and others).

New sponsorship went to Isabella Marshall of the RWCMD, an outstanding Shakespearean actor, and the project to teach English to street children in Santa Cruz.

The branch organised and funded All Wales heats for the secondary schools' public speaking contest and a new initiative, in conjunction with Howells School, Llandaff, to run a pilot public speaking workshop and competition for primary schools in Cardiff and the Vale.

The meeting was followed by another very well attended literary lunch, where the speaker was Stanley Johnson, traveller and campaigner for wild places and animals, who generated laughter and serious thought for everyone and promoted his new book *Where Wild Things Were*.

For information and membership, contact Derek Morgan, chairman, on 01656 669129.



Stanley Johnson with branch president Sir Norman Lloyd-Edwards with the book

Local children on Scarecrow trail to the Food Festival!

THIS year, Cowbridge Food and Drink Festival has gone even more scarecrow mad!

After the success of last year, all local primary schools have been invited to participate and the committee expect over 30 locally-made scarecrows to be dotted around the whole town.

Free trail maps can be picked up over the Festival weekend from Liquorice Laces, Cakes for Celebrations and Oscars, with children being asked to vote for their favourite scarecrow.

Children can use the map to find all of the scarecrows on the trail, as well as giving the family a great reason to visit some of Cowbridge's amazing shops and businesses.

Prizes will go to the most popular scarecrow

designer as well as drawing a winner from the voting children.

This year, the scarecrows are themed to children's stories. To spot them all, you will have to look up high and look down low!

And remember to vote for your favourite to be in with a chance of a prize.

We are inviting children to come to the Festival dressed as a scarecrow. Our judge will give a prize or two to the best ones.

This will be held on both days. Times for judging and prize giving will be confirmed nearer the time.

If you would like to make a scarecrow, please contact Tracy on 07773 804470.

POLLY WILSON, Event Manager

Vale seminar to protect wildlife

AS the Vale Council cabinet member for the environment and visible services, I want to ensure that protecting and sustaining the environment is an issue we think about in our communities.

Small changes can make a big difference. The Vale of Glamorgan is an area of outstanding beauty, and as custodians, we need to encourage practices that will support our beautiful landscape and diverse wildlife, to secure its future.

Therefore, the Vale Council has brought together representatives from the RSPB, South

and West Wales Wildlife Trust, as well as its own ecology officers, for a thought-provoking seminar on this very subject on October 10 from 6pm – 8pm in the council chamber, Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry, CF63 4RU.

The event is by invitation only and places are limited, so will be offered on a first come, first served basis.

You can register to attend either by e-mailing rfcurtis@vale-of-glamorgan.gov.uk or by telephoning 01446 709469 by October 4. Coun Rob Curtis, Barry

WHAT'S ON / in brief

Festival finale

IN the final concert of Cowbridge Music Festival, baritone Gary Griffiths and Hannah Stone (harpist) will appear tomorrow (Friday, September 27) at 7.30pm in Holy Cross Church.

Since his performance at the festival in 2011, Griffiths has gone on to win the Welsh Singers competition and to represent Wales in Cardiff Singer of the World.

This year, he will be joined by Hannah Stone, harpist to Prince Charles, for a programme including works by Mozart, Salzedo and Britten. Tickets (£12, £10, £1) from Xantippe or online at www.cowbridge-musicfestival.co.uk.

Coffee time

Macmillan's World's Biggest Coffee Morning will be held on Sunday, September 29 from 10am-12pm, at the Wellbeing Practice, 9a Tynywydd Road, Barry.

Botanical art

PENARTH-based artist, Chris Taylor, is holding botanical painting classes and workshops each month at St Donat's Art Centre, on the changing seasons.

They begin on October 25 at St Donat's Arts Centre in Llantwit Major and will cover different topics with the changing seasons including harvest fruits and vegetables.

Vale churches get together for 'open day'

A CHURCH open day was held on September 14, when groups of walkers, who started from Bonvilston after breakfast at the Red Lion, cyclists, runners and horse riders visited various churches and chapels in the east Vale of Glamorgan.

Highlights of the day included abseiling at Welsh St Donats church tower by priests Martyn Davies (first), and Edwin Counsell (second), followed by MP Alun Cairns.

This was augmented by a choral recital and hand bell ringing at St

Pictures by
IAN DIXON

Peters, a guide around the bell tower at St Cradocs, and cuddly toy parachuting at Welsh St Donats and Pendoylan.

In addition, there were many opportunities to see parish records, documents, and view the medieval buildings.

The visitors were sustained by refreshments provided at a number of the venues on a highly successful and well-attended open day.



WHO WANTS TO BUILD WHAT, AND WHERE?

Mr Steve Parritt – **18 St Cyres Road, Penarth** – Replacement garage with bedroom above and rear single storey kitchen extension.

Mrs Katrina Van Der Vliet – **6 Herbert Terrace, Penarth** – Change of use form A1 to Sui Generis for use as a ceramic painting studio with ancillary provision of hot and cold drinks, cakes, etc.

Dr Ian Thomas – **Greenway Cottage, Bonvilston** – Renewal of planning consent (reference 2008/0129/FUL) regarding the demolition of existing garage and construction of garage with hobby room to roofspace.

Mr P A Taylor – **The Flat, 71 Eastgate Cowbridge** – Replacement of lath and plaster ceilings with plasterboard and gypsum skim to existing internal walls and tiling of window reveals.

Mrs May Davies – **3 The Court, Cornroth** – Construction of a small extension to annex flat.

Mr and Mrs G and E Rees – **Sydney House, Llyswoyner, Cowbridge** – Gable and dormer additions to main roof rear elevation. Porch to front elevation. Conservatory to rear.

Mr and Mrs David Smith – **13 Coleridge Avenue, Penarth** – Single storey rear extension.

S Andrews & Son (Pwllheli) Ltd – **Caffi Nia, The Kiosk, 4 Willow Walk, Cowbridge** – An extension to a bridge adjoining Caffi Nia and a proposed separate toilet block.

Ms Jackie Carey – **60 Redbrink Crescent, Barry** – Proposed flat roof garage to rear raised garden.

Miss Laura Parsons – **12 Woodlands Road, Barry** – To erect a prefabricated garage at the rear of the garden, four feet back from the lane on a concrete base.

Mrs Anne Inch – **23 Adenfield Way, Rhosse** – Single storey extension to the rear of the property to comprise a kitchen. Dr Allan Fussell – **20 Dochwy Road, Llandough, Penarth** – Single storey kitchen and wet room extension.

Silver Crescent Estates Ltd – **42 Clive Place, Penarth** – Proposed demolition of existing rear annex, alterations and minor extension to rear annex of property, plus carport and bin store.

Miss Jacqueline Brett – **3 Sandy Lane, Ystradowen** – Conservatory to rear of property. Rendered 600mm wall with UPVC windows and aluminium roof all in white.

Tesco Stores Ltd – **Tesco Express, Castle Drive, Dinas Powys** – Using an NPIC tree team, make safe all work areas. Working in the tree, reduce the canopy by 20 per cent and lift to above 4m to pull the tree back from the neighbour's property, who has complained about the overhang. Chip waste on site and remove to a suitable facility.

Mr Justin Evans – **Ty Draw, St Andrews Major, Dinas Powys** – Proposed new lambing shed.

Mr Bowen Watt – **Tesco Express, Castle Drive, Dinas Powys** – Crown lift and reduce the canopy by 30 per cent to one Oak due to shading out and overgrowing a neighbouring property.

Ms Jane Wade – **Docks Office, Subway Road, Barry** – Alterations to office accommodation, including forming new reception, upgrading storage space to office accommodation and improving disabled access.

Redrup Motors Limited – **Barry Car Sales, Cardiff Road, Barry** – Change from car showroom to A1 shop and A3 cafe.

The Roundhouse Partnership – **The Barley Field, The Lawns, Cwrt yr Ala Road, Cardiff** – Retrospective excavation of three basin/ponds and proposed siting of a tool shed, shipping container to sustain and enable agricultural use of the site. Mr Coles – **Pentwyn House, Pendoylan, Cowbridge** – Proposed first floor extension.

Mr Paul Scourfield – **St Andrews Major Primary School, St Andrews Road, Dinas Powys** – Erection of timber pergola to create dry play area to match existing pergola.

Syrus Energy Ltd – **Penllyn Estate Farm, Llwynhelig, Cowbridge** – Construction and use of an anaerobic digestion facility and associated works.

Scope – **Sully Skills Development Centre, Hayes Road, Sully** – Application for unit to remain on site permanently; a temporary building and covered area for

ramped access to the main building.

Mr David Jenkins – **3 Plymouth Road, Penarth** – Conversion of existing (dilapidated) detached garage into habitable space including link to existing house, plus associated works.

Mrs Michelle Proctor – **1 Old Road, Barry** – Extension to dwelling.

Mr Leonard Richards – **4 Great House Meadows, Llantwit Major** – Detached new house in the garden of the existing dwelling.

Mr and Mrs Tim Raikes – **19 Bittern Way, Penarth** – Existing conservatory to front elevation to be replaced with single storey extension. Extension to provide larger lounge and porch.

Ms Elizabeth Joyce – **35 Trebeferad, Boverton** – Proposed first floor extension to provide an additional one bedroom and shower room, together with associated internal alterations to the existing house.

Mr John Evans – **Point House, 4 Main Road, Ogmores-by-Sea** – Proposed alterations to extend existing dwelling to provide additional accommodation to house elderly parent.

Mr Trevor Taylor – **Hill Farm, Hensol** – Application for the erection of a temporary screening fence.

Mr Robert Harmer – **Springfield House, Graig Penllyn** – Resubmission of 2008/00570/FUL previously granted permission September 4, 2008; double storey and single storey extension.

Mr Brian and Kurt Evans – **Land opposite Forest Farm, Cowbridge Road** – Proposed agricultural barn.

Cardiff City Football Club – **Opposite Hensol Villas, Hensol** – Creation of sports training pitches, erection of maintenance facilities, associated car parking and internal roadway.

Mr P Harris – **55 Walker Road, Barry** – Removal of existing substandard conservatory and replacement with new conservatory.

Mr Mark Roach – **10 Cherry Close, Penarth** – Relocation of garage previously approved (necessary to avoid main drainage run M/H).

Mr Mark Wood – **20 Drylla, Southra Park, Dinas Powys** – First floor side extension.

Mr Dave Drayton – **22 Drylla, Southra Park, Dinas Powys** – First floor side extension.

UWC Atlantic College – **St Donats Castle, St Donats, Llantwit Major** – The proposed development is to provide accommodation for a Pre International Baccalaureate course (Pre IB) at UWC Atlantic College. This includes internal alterations and refurbishment of the Cavalry Barracks to provide dormitories, general teaching accommodation, a parents' house, and externally a glazed screen to enclose collonade area.

Mr Greg Jefferies – **6 Ty Pica Drive, Wenvoe** – New pitched roof over new porch and existing garage. Front veranda.

Mr Derek Dowdeswell Knapp & Son – **46A Salop Place, Penarth** – Renewal of application 2008/01376/FUL for conversion to create a two-bedroom dwelling house with rear garden.

Mr Timothy Sharp – **Copse Edge, The Rhiw, Graig Penllyn** – Two storey extension and new dormer window to rear.

Dr Jerry Heath – **Lane End, Michaelston le Pit** – Building of new dwelling with existing dwelling to be used as ancillary accommodation and demolition of industrial buildings and barns within a conservation area.

Mr Kevin Halborg – **The Kiosk, Stanwell Road, Penarth** – Renewal of application 2008/01087/FUL for a replacement kiosk.

Mr Robert Harry – **Langcross Farm, Pen-y-Turnpike Road, Dinas Powys** – Farm house and farm buildings. Soil processing, storage and sale. Forestry/woodland.

Mr John Pidgeon – **The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry** – Retention of three air conditioning units.

Ms J Sharkey – **Ninian House, Wine Street, Llantwit Major** – Demolition of existing rear annexes; construction of two storey rear extension and internal alterations to property.

Mrs Rosalind Close – **13 Csemeston Drive, Penarth** – Renewal of planning permission for proposed single storey extension to rear and single storey extension to side (planning approval ref 2009/00287/FUL).

Mr and Mrs C Preece – **85 Westbourne Road, Penarth** – Two storey extension to

front and single storey extension to side and rear.

Cardiff Treescapes – **Meriholm, Cwm Drive, Dinas Powys** – Tree no.1, Oak, pollard at 5m; tree no.2, Oak, reduce and shape the entire canopy by approximately 2m; tree no.3, Oak, reduce and shape the entire canopy by approximately 2m.

Mr J Nurse – **Atlantis, Ham Lane South, Llantwit Major** – Demolition of existing dwelling, construction of two detached dwellings.

Arbtech Tree Services Ltd – **Ashgrove, 59 Walston Road, Wenvoe** – T1 Ash, dismantle and remove; T2 Ash, crown reduction of 15 per cent and as necessary to rebalance following removal of T1.

Arbtech Tree Services Ltd – **Foxglove Cottage, 1 Castle Mews, Llanblethian, Cowbridge** – Three Ash in G1, crown clean and balance by reduction.

Arbtech Tree Services Ltd – **Dan y Coed, Church Road, Llanblethian, Cowbridge** – T1 Eucalyptus, fell; T2 Cypress crown reduction of 20 per cent and lift to 2 metres; T3 Cypress (fallen but hung up) remove.

Mr and Mrs Davies – **7 Mountjoy Close, Penarth** – Removal of rear single storey extension and sunroom. Construction of new single storey kitchen/dining room to rear and side; loft conversion with side and rear dormer window.

Mrs S W Jenkins – **Land off Badgers Brook Rise, Ystradowen, Cowbridge** – Residential development, comprising the erection of dwellings (up to 40) and garages and the construction of roads, footways, footpath and cycleway, drainage and services, landscaping and all associated building and engineering operations.

Mr Edward Maloney – **Land adjacent to Hawthorn Cottage, Twyn yr Odyn** – The use of land for the stationing of caravans for residential purposes for 1 no. gypsy pitch together with the formation of additional hard standing and utility/dayroom ancillary to that use.

Mr and Mrs Steven Barker – **1 Rudry Street, Penarth** – Two storey extension at side of dwelling with single storey at the rear, plus garden store.

Mr Damian Cottle – **9 The Broadshoard, Cowbridge** – Retention of single storey extension to side of house.

Ms Lynne Hackett – **22 Redlands Road, Penarth** – Roof extension to existing garden room.

Mr Graham Hutchings – **Lilypot Farm, Bonvilston** – Construct two log cabins for holiday letting throughout the year.

Mr Sam Courtney – **Ogmores Residential Centre, Ogmores-by-Sea** – Demolition of existing buildings and development of site for residential purpose at Ogmores Residential Centre.

Miss Jayne Brown – **31 Albert Road, Penarth** – Conversion and extension of existing commercial property (31 Albert Road) into a dwelling that will be connected to 31a Albert Road to form one dwelling property.

Mr D B Williams – **The Keep, Llandough, Cowbridge** – Trim Chestnut tree.

Mr Hanson – **35 Millbrook Road, Dinas Powys** – Reduce tree by 20 per cent.

Mrs J Dwyer – **17 Laburnum Way, Dinas Powys** – Reduce Oak by 20 per cent.

Mr Adam Hallows – **4 Nyth yr Eos, Rhosse** – Application to change the use of the current residential dwelling to a mixed residential and office use, due to employment of two people working in a part-time capacity at the dwelling.

Mr Dave Rutter – **7 Hazel Grove, Dinas Powys** – Demolition of existing garage, provision of two storey extension to side and single storey to front and rear, provision of two parking spaces to front of property.

Mr David Callow – **Beechwood Hollow, City, Llansannor** – Single storey study extension (retrospective); revision of previously approved application 2009/01121/FUL.

Mr and Mrs Brian Casey – **7 Charteris Close, Penarth** – Amendment to change hipped roof on rear extension to gable on planning consent reference 2013/00218/FUL dated March 18, 2013.

Mr and Mrs Paul Galsworthy – **16 St Cyres Road, Penarth** – Replacement garage with bedroom above, rear single storey kitchen extension and conversion of roofspace for two bedrooms.

Sports earn bragging rights after derby win

SULLY SPORTS did not have to travel far for this away fixture, a local derby against Old Penarthians, and Sully's supporters turned up in droves.

Although the two sides are neighbours, this was to be the first meeting between the two clubs in the league. The weather conditions were perfect for rugby; however, supporters from both clubs were going to be disappointed with a game that was decided not by the team that performed the best, by the team that made fewer errors.

It became apparent both on the field and in post-match conversation that Old Pens are struggling for numbers, and as such they have a small squad of the Old Pens faithful from whom they have to select two sides.

On the other hand, Sully Sports were without their scrum half and their outside half who is also captain and would normally call the plays and control the direction of the game.

These key positions were filled by Rhys Manford at outside half and Harry Moyle stepped in at scrum half. Both players stepped up to the mark and delivered with Harry directing the pack and making good individual yards by

sniping around the sides of the scrum and Rhys showing showed both good handling and individual skills.

Sully's forwards always deliver at the scrum and this game was no exception as they dominated the scrums from the kick off. The lineout was a different story however as Old Pens had a clear height advantage.

Sully did well to retain ball from their own lineout most of the time but they did extremely well at spoiling the opposition's ball at this set piece. Sully are fortunate to have some great young talent amongst their forwards with many of them contesting for and gaining positions in the starting 15.

There was also an improvement in self discipline with certain players finally realising that the result is invariably more favourable when you do not constantly challenge the referee's decisions.

The backs generally performed well, but just seemed to be lacking in consistency, so many good moves coming to nought when players made the half-break but the final pass was wayward and of poor quality. It's as though they could run good angles and create opportunities but they not deliver a pass at speed.

On one occasion when a half-break result-

ed in a scoring chance, the final pass went straight to the opposing centre, who ran 60 metres to score against the run of play.

There were some performances worthy of mention, as the two centres, Nathan Szuchnik and Sean Atkinson, combined very well, both players tackling well when defending and in attack they frequently burst through center-field, causing Old Pen's defence major problems.

Sean, who is in his second season with Sully Sports, is retreating across Offa's Dyke to his native Leicester due to work commitments and will be sorely missed by all at Sully Sports RFC - We wish him well.

Nathan Taylor once again put in a performance to be proud of; week in, week out, he demonstrates all of the skills that one hopes to see in a winger but rarely does.

All in all it was a lacklustre performance by both clubs and they will both have to improve if they are to do well in the league. Nevertheless, a win is a win, the final score 32-15, and Sully achieved what they set out to do when they left Swanbridge. However, they should not become complacent as there is a lot to reflect on after this game and a lot to work on at training.

JB

The Bombettes put Maesteg to the sword

ON Sunday, Barry ladies RFC took on Maesteg Celtic ladies at their home ground at Barry RFC.

The game was meant to take place at Maesteg, however they requested a swap due to tournaments at their ground.

Both teams were pushed to their limits and gave it their all during this challenging game.

Due to a serious injury to a Maesteg player only 15 minutes into the first half, the game was moved to another pitch. Both teams kept warm and motivated ready to return to the game.

Five minutes into the second half, the Bombettes' substitutes were utilised, bringing fresh legs into the game. The game saw the Bombettes score three tries, with two conversions. A special mention to try scorer L Shannahan, and first-time try scorers Lucy Cahill and Stacey Home; conversions came from Kim Jones (c) and B Fox-Mable, the final

score 19-12.

A huge thank you for all the support we receive every week, please join us on Sunday, October 2 (2.30pm kick off), as we take on Sea View Ravens at Barry RFC.

Team: L Cahill, L Phillips, Kath Jones, C

KJ

Course record is broken at RAF St Athan

THE course record at RAF St Athan Golf Club was originally set in 1996 by Trevor Graham with a gross score of 69.

In the years that followed the course was extended, and in 2003 Craig Sherman stole the title, matching Trevor on gross score but with extra yardage to cover he now held the record.

Roll the calendar forward 10 years, and with further extension to the course, Keiron Harman cards a magnificent gross

67 in the club's recent monthly medal competition.

Playing off a handicap of 1, Keiron stormed around the 6,554 yard course, amazing and delighting his playing partners Roger Davidge and Keiran Whilding with his exceptional skill and execution of shots.

RAF St Athan Golf Club is run by the members, they warmly welcome new social and playing members; for further information contact the club manager on 01446 751043.

CAROL MORGAN

GIRLS' SCHOOL CENTENARY REUNION



ABOVE: Mary Howie receives a bouquet from Vale mayor Coun Margaret Wilkinson and Barry Mayor Coun Claire Curtis, accompanied by their consorts.

I WOULD like to express my heartfelt thanks to the 500 ladies who attended the centenary reunion at the Memorial Hall, Barry, on Wednesday, September 11, to celebrate the opening of the Barry Girls' County Grammar School in 1913.

After a year of organisation, it was really good to see all my hard work come to fruition and to see everyone having such a good time, meeting old friends and acquaintances.

The hall was full of squeals and laughter as memories were revived and reminiscences exchanged. The whole event depended on these ladies coming from far and wide to attend – from Australia, America, Italy and Spain, as well as every corner of the UK. Without them it would have been a flop, so thank you all for coming.

I would also like to thank the following people, without whom my life would have been so much more difficult – the management and staff of the Memorial Hall, Barry, who laid out the hall so beautifully and worked hard to make the day a success; the wonderful people who donated or loaned white tablecloths and sheets so we could save money on purchasing; Cadwalladers from The Coffee House on Barry Island, who sponsored us

by giving us cups to act as charity collection vessels; the ladies who provided old photographs for me to scan, copy and print for mounting; my friends who gave up their time to help make the floral table centres and help dress the tables on the morning of the reunion.

Last, but certainly not least, my friend Carole Williams, who not only was my sounding board, but helped me sort out and mount the memorabilia; correlate all the attendees but also secretly organised a collection to purchase a beautiful Dartington glass vase, which she had engraved with details of the event and which she presented to me on the day (see photograph, bottom left).

Our collection raised in excess of £600, which we were pleased to present to Tenovus.

Monika Jones,
Barry.



Girls from the 1940s intake.



Some of the 1960 intake.



Mary Young Smith with her bouquet.

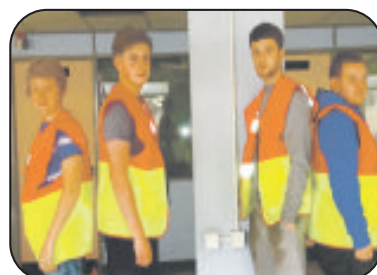


BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE - WITH LOCAL APPRENTICES

NEWYDD Housing Association and Cadwyn Housing Association have pulled together to secure carpentry and electrical apprenticeships in south Wales, in partnership with Willis Construction Ltd.

They were made available to young people aged 16-25 years and offered two-year carpentry apprenticeships and three-year electrical apprenticeships working on bathroom and kitchen upgrades for each housing association, as well as heating installations for Cadwyn.

Getting one of the four apprenticeships was no mean feat for the lucky youngsters. After a written test and construction site roleplay exercise, carried out in conjunction with the Construction Industry Training Board, 12 were interviewed the next day by a panel of representa-



The new Willis apprentices from left to right, Rhys Heathfield, Jake Hughes, Craig Wilford and Carlyn Payne

tives from Willis Construction and the two associations.

This resulted in Rhys Heathfield from Barry, Carlyn Payne from Culverhouse Cross, Jake Hughes from Llanrumney and Craig Wilford from Ely being successful, following the tough selection process.

Glynn Grey, operations manager at Willis Construction, who led the interviews, said: "It was a tough decision because we were all very impressed by the quality

and enthusiasm of the candidates and could have easily filled more places had they been available. All of the candidates had a really positive attitude and I believe that the unsuccessful ones will be able to use the experience to their advantage for other opportunities within the industry."

The apprentices, who are now employed by Willis Construction, have enrolled in Cardiff and The Vale College.

NEWS FROM THE BARRY MEN'S FORUM

FORTY-six years ago, the Rev Gwyfryn Pugh, with six members, met in his front room for the first meeting, of what they named The Barry Men's Forum.

The numbers soon increased, and they had to transfer meetings to Windsor Road Congregational Church Hall.

Now the Forum has 60 members who continue to enjoy illustrated talks given each week on numerous topics. The meetings are still held every Thursday morning

in the same church hall room, which was recently renamed as the Barry Uniting Church, Windsor Road, Barry.

The meetings start at 10.15am with tea and biscuits before a talk, usually illustrated, which can be on all sorts of different interesting subjects, finishing by 12 noon.

The new season of

talks start on October 3. The guest speaker is Mr Mike Cheeseman, who whose subject is 'Your Carbon Footprint'.

New members are welcome, and they should come along on Thursdays mornings, or they can contact the chairman Peter Westcott on 02920 594881 for further information.

PMW

CHARITY COFFEE

ALL Saints work party will be holding a coffee morning in support of Macmillan Cancer Support in the Lesser Hall, Victoria Square, Penarth, on Saturday, September 28 (10am until noon). Entry £1, to include coffeetea. Cake, books and bric-a-brac stalls.



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LICENSING ACT 2003

To whom it may concern: I/We, **Matthew Alexander Hunt**, do hereby give notice that I have applied to the Licensing Authority, Vale of Glamorgan Council for the variation of a premises licence at:

**17 Boverton Road
Llantwit Major
Vale of Glamorgan
CF61 1XZ**
known as Spar

This application is to vary the licence hours for the sale of alcohol in the morning from 6am / 7 days a week.

Any persons wishing to make representations to this application may do so in writing to the Licensing Department, Vale of Glamorgan Council Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry, CF63 4RU not later than 28 days after the date of this notice.

Representations received after this date will not be considered. A copy of the application can be viewed at the Civic Offices during normal office hours.

Signed: S Hunt
Date: 20/09/2013

LICENSING ACT 2003

To whom it may concern: I/We, **Philip Jones**, do hereby give notice that I have applied to the Licensing Authority, Vale of Glamorgan Council for the variation of a premises licence at:

**2 The High Street,
Cowbridge
Vale of Glamorgan
CF71 7AD**
known as Filco Supermarkets Ltd.

The application is to vary the licence by way of extending the morning licensing hours to 7am, Mon-Sat; 9am Sun / the sale of alcohol and the opening hours of the premises.

Any persons wishing to make representations to this application may do so by writing to Licensing Department, Vale of Glamorgan Council Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry, CF63 4RU not later than 28 days after the date of this notice.

Representations received after this date will not be considered. A copy of the Application can be viewed at the Civic Offices during normal office hours.

Signed: S Hunt
Date: 20/09/2013

Public Notices

Premises Licence

NOTICE is hereby given that an application has been made to **BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL** (The licensing authority) for the grant of a Premises Licence to permit licensable activities, which it is proposed, will be carried on or from the premises shown below.

Details of the application may be inspected during normal office hours at Bridgend County Borough Council Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB or by visiting the authority's website: www.bridgend.gov.uk

Any person or responsible authority may make representations in respect of the application, which must be submitted, in writing, to the Council at the address shown above or by email to: licensing@bridgend.gov.uk

Name of Applicant: **Oliver Ladbrooke-Davies**

Name and postal address of premises: **Nolton Corner, 4 Nolton Street, Bridgend CF31 1DU**

Statement of licensable activities/relevant qualifying club activities which it is proposed will be carried on or from the premises:

• Sale by retail of alcohol

• The provision of regulated entertainment

Live music: Mon - Wed 1200 - 0000 hours, Thurs & Sun 1200 - 0030 hours Fri & Sat 1200 - 0130 hours, Bank Hol Sun 1000 - 0130 hours, Christmas Eve 1000 - 0130 hours & New Year 1000 - 0230 hours. Recorded music: Mon - Wed 1000 - 0030 hours, Thurs & Sun 1000 - 0100 hours Fri & Sat 1200 - 0200 hours, Bank Hol Sun 1000 - 0200 hours, Christmas Eve 1000 - 0200 hours & New Year 1000 - 0300 hours.

Anything of a similar description to live music, recorded music, performances of dance:

Monday to Wednesday 1200 - 0000 hours, Thursday 1200 - 0030 hours Friday and Saturday 1200 - 0130 hours and Sunday 1200 - 0030 hours

Supply of alcohol: Mon - Wed 1000 - 0000 hours, Thurs 1000 - 0030 hours Fri & Sat 1000 - 0130 hours, Sunday 1000 - 0030 hours; Bank Hol Sun 1000 - 0130 hours, Christmas Eve 1000 - 0130 hours & New Year 1000 - 0230 hours

Date by which representations must be made to the licensing authority: 14 October 2013

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. The maximum fine on summary conviction is £5,000

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Family Notices

TROTT

Kathleen Rosemary (Kathy) formerly Gore, nee Woods

Peacefully on 19 September 2013, Kathleen of Llantwit Major. Dearly loved mother of Malcolm and Neil Gore and a loving grandmother.

She will be sadly missed by family and friends.

Donations may be made to Cancer Research UK c/o the Funeral Director (cheques only please). All enquiries to W.A. Brown & Son. 01446 792489

RINGWOOD

Edward Raymond

Peacefully on 15th September at his home in Llantwit Major, Raymond, beloved husband of Christine.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fomfon. Funeral Monday, 30th September, service 1.45pm at Bethel Baptist Church, Llantwit Major, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend at 2.45pm. No flowers by request, donations in lieu, if desired, to Marie Curie Cancer Care c/o Mrs C James, 11 Fomfon Road, Rhosce, CF62 3DZ.

MOFFAT Gwyneth B

Lindsay, Robert and Andrew would like to thank everyone who attended mum's funeral at Zoar Chapel. Also, thank you for all your thoughts, cards, flowers and donations to mum's charities.

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THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL • CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012

Development that may affect a Conservation Area/ Datblygu a allai effeithio ar Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No./Rhif y cais:	2013/00843/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig:	Building of new dwelling with existing dwelling to be used as ancillary accommodation and demolition of industrial buildings and barns within a conservation area
Location/Lleoliad:	Lane End, Michaelston Le Pit
Conservation Area/Ardal Gadwraeth	Affecting the Michaelston-le-Pit
Application No./Rhif y cais:	2013/00844/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig:	Renewal of application 2008/01087/FUL for a replacement kiosk
Location/Lleoliad:	The Kiosk, Stanwell Road, Penarth
Conservation Area/Ardal Gadwraeth	Affecting the Penarth
Application No./Rhif y cais:	2013/00880/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig:	Proposed new two storey dormer bungalow with garage
Location/Lleoliad:	Old Mill Cottage, Mill Road, Dinas Powys
Conservation Area/Ardal Gadwraeth	Dinas Powys

Listed Building Consent/ Caniatâd Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No./Rhif y cais:	2013/00839/LBC
Proposal/Cynnig:	The proposed development is to provide accommodation for a Pre International Baccalaureate course (Pre IB) at UWC Atlantic College. This includes internal alterations & refurbishment of the Cavalry Barracks to provide dormitories, general teaching accommodation, a parent's house and externally a glazed screen to enclose colonnade area.
Location/Lleoliad:	United World College of the Atlantic Ltd, St. Donats Castle, St. Donats
Listed Building/Adeilad Rhestredig	Grade II
Application No./Rhif y cais:	2013/00887/LBC
Proposal/Cynnig:	Replace like for like roof timber, ceiling boards and timber lintel. Check condition of lead flashing over parameter wall for any replacement. Existing covered roof lights to be removed and make good to roof boarding
Location/Lleoliad:	Rhws Primary School, Fontygary Road, Rhosce
Listed Building/Adeilad Rhestredig	Grade II

Application(s) of General Interest/ Ceisiadau o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol

Application No./Rhif y cais:	2013/00856/OUT
Proposal/Cynnig:	Residential development, comprising the erection of dwellings (up to 40) and garages and the construction of roads, footways, footpath and cycleway, drainage and services, landscaping and all associated building and engineering operations.
Location/Lleoliad:	Land off Badgers Brook Rise, Ystradowen, Cowbridge

Application No./Rhif y cais:	2013/00862/RES
Proposal/Cynnig:	Demolition of existing buildings and redevelopment of site for residential purpose at Ogmore Residential Centre
Location/Lleoliad:	Ogmore Residential Centre, Ogmore by Sea

Application No./Rhif y cais:	2013/00879/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig:	Erection of a single wind turbine, with a maximum blade tip height of 77 metres, along with accompanying access track, crane hardstanding, substation, associated underground cabling and temporary construction compound
Location/Lleoliad:	MB Jones Farm, Cornstown

Application No./Rhif y cais:	2013/00882/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig:	Proposed extension, providing 36 additional touring pitches, with 12 of which to be the seasonal type
Location/Lleoliad:	Happy Jakes Touring Park, adjacent to 1, New Barn, Flemington

Application No./Rhif y cais:	2013/00884/OUT
Proposal/Cynnig:	Residential development for up to 140 dwellings with associated access, estate roads and public open space
Location/Lleoliad:	Land to the West of Port Road, Wenvoe

Application No./Rhif y cais:	2013/00881/OUT
Proposal/Cynnig:	Construction of 7 No. apartments, including car parking and landscaping
Location/Lleoliad:	Sealawns Hotel, Slon Lane, Ogmore By Sea

May affect a Public Right of Way/ Gall effeithio ar Hawl Tramwy Cyhoeddus

Application No./Rhif y cais:	2013/00819/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig:	Retrospective excavation of three basin/ponds and proposed siting of a tool shed, shipping container to sustain and enable agricultural use of the site
Location/Lleoliad:	The Barley Field, The Lawns, Cwrt yr Ala Road, Cardiff

Application No./Rhif y cais:	2013/00822/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig:	Construction and use of an anaerobic digestion facility and associated works
Location/Lleoliad:	Penllyn Estate Farm, Llwynhelig, Cowbridge

Application No./Rhif y cais:	2013/00884/OUT
Proposal/Cynnig:	Residential development for up to 140 dwellings with associated access, estate roads and public open space
Location/Lleoliad:	Land to the West of Port Road, Wenvoe

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via <http://vognonline.planning-register.co.uk/>

Gall manylion eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir isod, neu drwy <http://vognonline.planning-register.co.uk/>

Dated / Dyddiedig: 26 September, 2013

M. Goldsworthy
Operational Manager Development & Building Control,
Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry. CF63 4RT

RAF St Athan Golf Club finals day



Lady finalists with the ladies' captain.



Craig Sherman & Steve Thomas, with their caddies.



Ashton Grey and Rhodri Miskin.



Erin Allison and Liz Thomas.



Daz Smith and Andy Davie.



Gareth Loveridge and Jon Pengelly.



Dan Williams and Erin Allison.

The members of RAF St Athan Golf Club were expecting a mini-heat-wave for their finals day held on Saturday, September 21 – but with this forecast not materialising, it was down to the players to create their own rainbow – which they certainly achieved with their brightly-coloured golfing attire.

Finals day is the culmination of various competitions played throughout the season, and the outcome sees the best golfers' names appended onto the coveted competition boards and silverware. In the Club Championship match, there was a real see-saw contest – first one player going up, then the other. Craig Sherman established a 3 hole lead after 18 and although Steve Thomas pulled it back somewhat, he could never quite level the score. In the end Craig ran out as the winner 2 & 1.

The Plate final saw Daz Smith and Andy Davie square up with Daz 2 up at the halfway stage. Unfortunately Andy could not sustain the impetus as Daz powered home to a 6 & 5 win.

Gareth Loveridge was playing in his first finals day, surviving the knock-out stages to come up against Jon Pengelly who has played

and been successful in the Rabbits competition. Gareth started the afternoon session 1 down, but determination to win took an unexpected boost when one of Jon's supporters switched allegiance and caddied for him!

Was this an act of sabotage by Gary Bohun? Yes, according to one particular member, namely Jon, who unfortunately finished the game well and truly beaten 4 & 3.

The Fariwood Park and the Ladies Invitation were team events, the former match seeing JWG and Will Morgan up against Gerald Thomas and Andy Pentith.

Even though the Morgans were confident on the first tee the father and son pairing quickly realised that they 'hadn't turned up on the day and succumbed to a much deserved 4 & victory by Gerald and Andy.

Judging by the hilarity resounding around the course in the Invitation match it appeared that the players forgot that they were actually competing in finals day; Jackie Hawkins and Russ Brookes eventually defeated 5 & 4 by Steph Bonnar and Steve Bacon.

The Ladies Championship was contested by Liz Thomas and Erin Allison, both of whom have been at this stage in previous years. Liz, the more experienced player, was 2 up at the turn after dominating the front 9, however Erin with her brother, Ethan on the bag man-

aged to turn the game around to a 3 & 2 victory.

Janet Davies and Carol Morgan went head to head in the Millennium Plate which saw a game of two halves; all square after 9 but finishing 5 & 3 in Carol's favour. There was only one junior competition on the day, the Plate - this was an 18 hole matchplay game played off scratch.

Rhodri Miskin and Ashton Grey must be commended for their etiquette and decorum shown to each other, Ashton graciously conceding to Rhodri when the game reached 6 & 5.

Unfortunately, supporters were unable to follow the Junior Championship game between Erin Allison and Dan Williams. This had been played the previous week due to Erin already qualifying for the ladies championship.

With some glorious golf being played, Dan battled tremendously, but Erin came out the stronger, and must be applauded for now holding both the Junior and the Ladies Champion titles.

Back in the clubhouse, captain Hugh Williams congratulated the players, referees and caddies for the superb conduct and tremendous stand of play witnessed throughout the day.

Refreshments for everyone were generously provided by the men's and ladies sections and the ladies captain, Ros Martin-Jones, on behalf of her section, presented each of the lady finalists with beautiful bouquets: the big rewards to be awarded at the club's presentation evening later in the year.

RAF St Athan Golf Club welcomes new players and visitors; a function room is available for private hire and catering is available. For further information contact the club manager on 01446 751043.

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Table tennis

THE Vale of Glamorgan Table Tennis Academy, which meets in the Cwm Talwg Community Hall, Barry, is changing its club night.

It will move from Wednesdays, and from October 1, the new club night will be on Tuesdays (7pm-9pm). The move is so that Cardiff and District league matches can be played on Wednesdays.

All standards of players are welcome at the club – young and old – and coaching is available.

For more information, contact George Evans on 01446 711297.

Ray triumphs in Irish Classic

CONNEMARA Golf Club in County Galway, which 94 years ago witnessed the first transatlantic flight when Alcock and Brown landed in a peat bog adjacent to their superb

links course, last weekend welcomed 26 members and guests of the Glamorgan Farmers' Golf Society who had travelled over the Irish Sea to compete over 54 holes

for The David Evans (Agriculture) Ltd Trophy.

After three rounds played in autumnal weather, Ray Thomas was declared the overall winner to collect the winner's trophy from sponsor, Mr David Evans.

Retired farmer David Williams finished runner-up, just ahead of Dai John who finished third. Richard Donnelly, a member of Southerndown, won the guests section.

Members were grateful to Mike King, David Harris and Julian Kelly, who organised this most enjoyable tour.

The societies next meeting is scheduled for today (September 26) when they will be visiting the Rhondda golf club to compete for The Arthur John Cup. MC

Rhoose lose derby clash

BARRY TOWN came out on top in the Vale derby clash with Rhoose at Jenner Park on Saturday.

Barry went two goals up within 15 minutes, the first a fluked rebound from a clearance that looped over a helpless Rhoose keeper and into the net; the second from a good strike from outside the penalty area following some hesitant and inept defending from the Rhoose defence.

When a penalty was awarded in the 25th minute for a trip, the game was well and truly up for the 'home' side.

Although Rhoose fought back and acquitted themselves well in the second half, it is fair to say that Barry were largely in cruise mode, the game having been

won in the first 25 minutes.

In the important areas of the field and at important times Rhoose were largely out-thought and when it mattered, it has to be said, took the wrong options.

Rhoose will need to put this defeat behind them and move on for Saturday's FAW Trophy game against South Wales Senior League side Cornelly at Jenner Park, kick off 2.30pm.

Please come along and support one of your Vale clubs striving for improvement and achievement - you may be pleasantly surprised by the standard of entertainment on show.

Rhoose FC would like to pass on their appreciation to the 130 fans who watched a high tempo, skilful and, at times, exciting encounter.

AP

Pre-season Cup frustration for hockey club

COMPETITIVE hockey began a week before the opening round of league matches for Penarth Hockey Club's 1st XI, with a new-look cup tournament pitching them against some familiar foes.

The competition, staged in Swansea, comprised four 40-minute games - instead of the usual 70-minute encounters - and acted as a qualifying stage before semi-finals and finals at the other end of the season.

Travelling with a squad including a number of 2nd XI regulars was not the ideal preparation for the senior team - although those brought in to bolster numbers were obviously able to hold their own at the higher level - and facing off against useful opposition from Llanishen & Caerphilly, Cardiff & Met and Whitchurch was always going to be a tall order.

The Vale's only men's club got off to the perfect start, however, as Llanishen & Caerphilly were despatched 2-1 thanks to a brace of drag-flicked goals from vice-captain Chris Baker, but their fortunes took a

downturn thereafter.

Back-to-back games with two Cardiff & Met sides resulted in a 1-3 defeat and a 1-1 draw, before a tight game with Whitchurch saw Penarth come out on the wrong side of a 1-2 scoreline, leaving them outside the qualifying positions for the later rounds.

While captain Mark Thomas was naturally disappointed with the results, he found time to praise the efforts of his squad in what was an unusual format, picking out Gareth Herman and Mark Harris for their 'notable performances'.

As a result of the 1st XI's need to draw on the 2nd XI squad for players, the weekend's other fixture had to be scratched, leaving the seconds to head into the main part of the season with just one game under their belts.

This coming Saturday sees the start of league competition, with the 1st XI travelling across the Severn Bridge to tackle Wotton-under-Edge in the first of two away fixtures to kick off the campaign. The 2nd XI, meanwhile, take on Trinity St Davids on home 'soil' at Barry Sports Centre.

Penarth Hockey Club always welcomes new, old and returning players, umpires, supporters, friends and helpers, regardless of age and ability. Training takes place on the artificial turf at Barry Sport Centre every Wednesday, with the juniors in action between 6-7pm and seniors between 7-8pm.

Further information can be obtained from club secretary Dave Stevens at: d_stevens81@hotmail.co.uk.

CL

UNDER-16s WELCOME SUPPORT

LAST Sunday, Barry RFC's under-16 squad took delivery of their new strip, presented to them by Lyndon Smith from LDS Motor Factors.

Lyndon has supported the squad for a number of years, and through his generosity all members have benefited from new kit and equipment and have been able to participate in team building activities such as canoeing and paint balling, training sessions at the

University of South Wales Sports Park at Trefforest, in addition to a number of social events for players and parents.

The season has started well for the team with two home victories against Llandaff North and Glamorgan Wanderers and an away win against English opposition, Avonvale from Bath.

This Sunday the squad will be looking for a good performance at the St Joseph's tournament in Cardiff.

IE

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Good win for Rhoose under-15s

COWBRIDGE started the game well against Rhoose under-15s, using their wide players and soon took the lead.

Rhoose equalised through Matt Cottington. Cowbridge went in front again, however Rhoose were playing with great confidence and defender Dylan White scored with an exquisite chip from long range.

Rhoose took the lead just before halftime through Dylan White's penalty.

Striker Josh Morgan headed home a superb long range pass from Josh Brown, while Joshua Caveill and Jay Coles were solid in the middle of the park. Daniel Cope's cross

then found Josh Morgan in space and he scored.

Edward Thomas had a fantastic game in defence, Declan Jenkins looked to push forward at every opportunity and linked up well with Tom Hubbard, Daniel Ahearn and Lee Bartlett.

Patrick O'Carroll used his strength and Matt Cottington was rewarded with his second goal after being played in by Joe Hopkins.

Keeper Michael Wilson remained focused throughout the game and made some excellent saves. Dylan White scored his hat-trick which rounded off a superb performance.

MB

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Barry seconds slip to another defeat

AFTER last weekend's disappointing reversal, Barry 2nd XV travelled to Llandaff Fields to face Clwb Rygbi as they continued their league campaign.

Once again hit with a lengthy injury list, coach Rhidian Scott and manager Ken Chow were forced to call up players from the youth and 3rd XV squad. Jake Goodfellow made his debut, with Joe Gallivan forced to wear the 9 shirt to partner Tom Poole at half back.

The game began as a scrappy affair, as both sides struggled to string together any attack of note. The home side showed more flair in their back division, while the visitors had more power up front.

However, the latter was negated by CRCC calling for passive scrums, therefore removing one of Barry's most potent weapons on the day.

Barry pressed hard without bearing much fruit in the early exchanges. There were good carries from Jamie Oaten, Lee Turnbull and Jake Connelly.

Unfortunately, the green-and-whites lacked the know-how to unlock a sturdy home defence, and they returned from their various forays into the CRCC 22 pointless.

Indeed, it was the home side who finally troubled the scorers, when they strung together a flowing counter-attacking move which left Barry stung. A combination of good handling and poor tackling saw the Cardiff side going into the interval 7-0 up.

The Barry cause was not helped by the injury curse striking again, when captain Nick Rolfe was forced to be withdrawn at the interval. With Oaten at number 8, there seemed to be a renewed impetus to drive the ball forward, but yet again a swift counter-attacking move by the home side was Barry's undoing, and within moments of the restart they were 14-0 down.

Barry attempted to rally and were on the front foot again, camping inside the Clwb Rygbi 22, but

once more were denied by a combination of good defending and poor decision making.

The visitors were further rocked by Connelly being carried off with the game still in the balance with a suspected fractured ankle; the club wishes him a speedy recovery.

CRCC scored again, this time an unconverted try, before Barry had the final say. A series of penalties deep in enemy territory was finally capitalised upon, as the ball was spread out wide to Brad White who crashed over from close range. Gallivan added the extras.

Barry laid siege to the home line for one last charge for a losing bonus point, but this time they were denied by the final whistle.

Despite the result, the effort by all 19 players in the squad was commendable and with key players returning from injury in the horizon, the future remains rosy at Barry.

Barry 2nd XV will continue their league campaign at Llanishen on October 12, while the 3rd XV will host Pentrych in a friendly on October 5.

Team: Bailey; Case, Connelly, White, E Evans; Poole, Gallivan; Bowditch, Turnbull, Heard; Flynn, Elsworth; Oaten, Goodfellow, Rolfe (c). **Replacements:** Ring, Come, Moffat, D Evans; **man-of-the-match:** Oaten. **KC**

Wheelchair rugby players visit prison

FOLLOWING a visit to Parc Prison, Bridgend, by players from the South Wales Pirates Wheelchair Rugby Club – where they demonstrated the game and hosted a 'have-a-go' session – the prison was inspired to arrange a series of fundraising matches between staff and inmates.

Co-ordinated by Jason Bekker, head of physical education, Parc Prison – who liaised with Disability Sport Wales to arrange the initiative – monies raised were then donated to the club for them to purchase much needed equipment including gloves, straps and balls.

David Hayes and Phil Forde, from HMP and YOI Parc, presented a cheque for over £300 to members of the South Wales Pirates at their weekly training session at the Llantrisant Leisure Centre.

Paul Jenkins, South Wales Pirates' head coach, commented: "We'd like to thank Jason Bekker and everyone involved, in raising this fantastic amount! The money that Parc have raised will help our players train and com-

pete at competition level."

Amanda Thomas, regional development officer for Great Britain Wheelchair Rugby, added: "I hope the growing awareness of the sport, which has come about following London 2012 and through engagements with the wider community via collaborations such as this with Parc Prison, will also encourage more people to get involved in the sport and join their local club."

Last year the Pirates received a development grant through Disability Sport Wales, which enabled them to purchase five brand new chairs from Welsh manufacturers ROMA Sport.

Wheelchair Rugby was one of the major highlights of the London 2012 Paralympics, with players – especially South Wales Pirates' favourite, David Anthony – regularly hitting the front pages of the national newspapers. A terrifying fusion of ice hockey, handball and rugby, the game was founded in Canada in 1977.

Barrivale bridge club

LATEST results from Barrivale, September 17:

1st Lyn Matthews & Alan Jones 55.21%; 2nd Peter Millar & Mark Roderick 54.17%; 3rd Mick Green & Noelle Bond 53.65%. Dave Reed & Jim Hume won on handicap.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale, if you would like to join us ring 01446 418380 or 01446 733425 or call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm.

MB

Dinas Powys are made to work for away victory

DINAS POWYS RFC faced Ogmores Vale on Saturday in a game that had been the Villagers' first fixture the previous season, Dinas walking away victors by only five points.

Dinas started brightly and within minutes, winger Mark Goode's direct and powerful run had the Villagers deep into the opposition half, earning a penalty which was converted confidently by Nic Coles, giving first blood and three points to Dinas.

Hooker Nic Vaggies, who returned to the starting 15 after recovering from a broken nose against Penygraig two weeks prior, crossed for the Villagers' first try, although a valiant last ditch tackle by the Ogmores number 11 saw him clattered as he touched down.

A difficult conversion from the touchline was missed by Nic Coles but the scoreline stood a promising 0-8 to the Villagers.

Despite this encouraging start, what followed was a period of ill discipline by Dinas, three penalties for the home team taking the score to 9-8.

In an effort to finish the first half ahead, Nic Coles lined up a long-range penalty attempt

from just inside the Ogmores half but the kick fell agonisingly short. The referee blew his whistle and brought the first half to an end.

The home team were living up to expectations and proving to be as tough to play as they had been the previous season.

As the match restarted, nobody anticipated what was to follow. The number of handling errors by both teams was without doubt significant and a contributing factor to the increasing frustration felt by players and supporters alike. Within seven minutes Ogmores lost a player to a yellow card, and then another to a red.

The Villagers were quick to seize the opportunity handed to them by Ogmores' ill-discipline. Morgan Williams used his momentum to cross for a try, allowing Dinas to regain the lead. Another difficult kick was missed, the score now 9-13, still too close for comfort.

The nerves of the travelling coaches, committee and supporters were spared a little when just three minutes later, flying winger James Smith found himself clear, and with 20 or so yards to the line he was unstoppable, much to the delight of his brother Mike Smith who watched as his sib-

ling scored in style next to the posts. An easier conversion was slotted over with ease by Nic Coles and the score stood at a more comfortable 9-20.

Dinas number 8 Williams was then yellow-carded, and a converted Ogmores try took the scores to 16-20.

Was this to be another match between the two sides that would be decided at the final whistle?

Buoyed by their recovery, Ogmores looked to be taking the initiative, but another yellow card meant the Villagers' two player advantage was proving too much for the home team, and further tries

by the Smith brothers (Mike and James), both converted by Nic Coles, led to the final score reading a flattering **Ogmores Vale 16, Dinas Powys 34.**

This week Dinas Powys play their first home game of the season on the common against fellow seafarers Porthcawl; follow @DinasPowysRFC on Twitter for live scores each Saturday.

A special note of congratulations to the Dinas Powys youth team, who avenged their cup defeat to local long-term rivals Penarth two weeks ago by convincingly beating them 17-3 on the Common.

MH

Do you know this bookie?



THIS picture of Cardiff bookmaker Jack Thomas was taken at Royal Ascot in 1956, the year Skindles Hotel won the New Stakes.

If you remember him, or his clerk also pictured, I would be pleased to hear from you - please phone 02920 736438 or e-mail brianlee4@virginmedia.com.

BRIAN LEE

Sully Sports RFC prove their worth!

ON a glorious September Saturday, Sully Sports RFC played host to New Panteg RFC with Sully determined to prove to themselves, as much as anyone, that they are indeed worthy of their promotion to WRU division SSE.

Ben Such's powerful run saw Sully open the scoring with a very well worked try, but Sully's lead was wiped out 10 minutes later when, against the run of play, Panteg intercepted and ran the ball in underneath Sully's posts.

Nathan Taylor intercepted a pass and jogged from his own 22 to score beneath the posts leaving the halftime score at 14-7.

The second half saw Sully's pack dominance rewarded by disrupting Panteg's ball and several

balls were won against the head, which provided a superb platform for Sully's backs.

After a penalty exchange, scrum half John Dimond seized his opportunity to snipe on the blind side and score a well-deserved try in the corner.

To Panteg's credit they did not give up and scored a very good try which they converted bringing them to within five points of Sully with seven minutes remaining.

However, on the day, Sully were the better and fitter of the two teams and had sufficient in reserve to finally put the game to bed with a fine display of team effort, and good hands put Nathan Taylor in with his second try to leave a final score of Sully Sports 29, New Panteg 17.

JB

Sion turns out for Wales



SION JONES (above), a pupil at Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg, represented Wales under-16s rugby league against England recently in an international at Taffs Well.

Although Wales lost the game 25-18, it was nip and tuck up until the last few minutes and the England boys were relieved to come away with a narrow victory.

This game had been a fantastic way to end the season for Sion, from Barry, who plays rugby union for the Cardiff Blues and Penarth RFC, and together with Iwan Baker and Scott Griffiths (Barry RFC) have been members of the South Wales Rugby League Academy, playing and beating a host of Super League clubs, even though they were playing a year up, as all three were under-15s.

SJ

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Peugeot 508 proves an impressive drive

A panoramic glass roof is a necessity.

Only the other week, I tested the Mazda CX-5 and bemoaned how dark the interior was compared to the Nissan Qashqai.

The reason was that the Mazda lacked the expansive glass roof of its competitor making it really dull even on a bright summer's day.

Peugeot, unlike Mazda, knows the importance of such a luxury and has been duly incorporating this into its designs for sometime.

The 508SW benefits from an expansive 1.62 sq m tinted glass roof (25 per cent larger than the one fitted to the 407 SW).

It makes such a difference, especially when the sun is beating down during the heat wave and temperatures regularly exceed 30 degrees Celsius.

This roof really does transform the passenger experience, so much so that our two-year-old daughter Harriett thoroughly enjoys looking out of it during a long journey to Devon.

The numerous branch-covered roads eventually send her to sleep.

I drove the 508 saloon when it was first

launched and marvelled at the high specification and its sheer style as you can see in the video at testdrives.biz.

But I believe that Peugeot has surpassed itself with its SW estate version.

Gone are the days of ugly estate cars. This is a joy to behold. Head on, its masculine, purposeful and sporty front end is enough to make even the most hardnosed BMW driver pull over when he sees it appear in the rear view mirror.

There is no part of its design that I can criticise; I even like the boot, which is quite an achievement for an estate car. The pearlescent white paintwork (a £655 option) undoubtedly adds to its appeal.

When you're struggling with two little children, the last thing you want to do is fiddle about trying to find your car keys and then have to unlock the vehicle.

With the Peugeot, as long as the key is on you, it will automatically unlock with two pulls of a door handle.

Sumptuous luxury is found inside and there's a massive amount of room, too.

The boot swallows our tandem pushchair and is large enough to cope with a week's



ABOVE: The Peugeot 508

worth of holiday luggage, although admittedly the security cover has to be left at home because the pushchair is too large to pull it over.

The two girls have bags of room in the back, which is just as well because the floor provides added luggage space.

A driver couldn't be happier really. They are provided with an electrically adjustable seat complete with massage function, for those particularly stressful journeys.

Needless to say it comes in very handy when we are confronted with an hour-long tailback due to a major road traffic accident.

The blistering temperatures require the quad air conditioning (front and back of the car – with controls for rear passengers – a £310 option with the rear sun-

blinds) to be on for the duration of our week together. We find it to be effective and equally as important, efficient.

It doesn't noticeably affect the fuel economy as we are able to travel nigh on 600 miles on the tank.

This is pretty impressive for a 2.2-litre 200bhp diesel.

Cruise control, a speed limiter and a smooth six-speed automatic gearbox all contribute to its average 47.8mpg reading.

On the border of Devon and Dorset, the roads begin to free up and with a clear dual carriageway ahead of us, it is possible to begin to put the 508SW through its paces.

When sports mode is engaged the revs increase and it shoots out of the blocks like a fine thoroughbred.

An approaching bend

MOTURING with TIM SAUNDERS

does not present a problem either, in the way that I first anticipated, and with minimal roll, it hugs the corner and comes out the other side with aplomb.

By virtue of the fact that it is a large estate car it is cumbersome, but its design tackles and generally overcomes this issue.

There are occasions where it is tricky to see all the way over the bonnet and reversing does require perhaps a little greater concentration than in smaller cars.

Often those who buy estate cars do it out of necessity and in the past have had to forgo any sporty appeal in favour of load carrying ability.

Thank goodness for the Peugeot, because now parents of a certain age can still enjoy an 8 second 0-60 time while carrying a large pram.

Try doing that in an Audi TT...

Facts at a glance:
Peugeot 508 SW GT HDI; 200;

Price £30,880;
0-60mph: 8.4secs;
Top speed: 138mph;
Combined economy: 47.8mpg.

Watch the video at www.testdrives.biz.

ON AND OFF THE TURF with Brian Lee

Jump legends to put on a show at Chepstow course

THE 'jump legends race day' is coming to Chepstow on Saturday, October 12, which signifies the start of the winter national hunt season and

will feature a jump jockeys legends race, a parade of equine jump legends and £100,000 in prize money.

The meeting has traditionally attracted some of the sport's biggest stars, including

Cue Card and Silviniaco Conti in recent years. This fantastic day for jumps fans, sponsored by Bet Victor, will be raising money for two great causes; The Bob Champion Cancer Trust and Spinal Research.

Many of the top trainers start to show-case some of their best prospects at this meeting and horses from the yards of Paul Nicholls and Philip Hobbs are frequent visitors. There is also a fundraising lunch, with donations going towards the two charities.

Guests will get the opportunity to hear about some of the trainers' top prospects for the season ahead and mingle with the jump legends.

Did you know you can find The GEM on Twitter?
[@gem_news](https://twitter.com/gem_news)

Golf day is a wet success!

THE annual Glamorgan Hunt Golf day was held at Cottrell Park on September 13.

Brollies and wellies would have been appropriate on the day - we probably had a month's worth of rain!

Eleven teams braved the weather including the lady captain of Southerndown, Sarah Morris. Considering the conditions, very good scores came in and last years winners won again.

The winning team were led by Rhys Williams of Priory Lettings, Barry; second was John Cambell of ESP Taffswell and third

place went to Jamie Gibson of ABK Property Ltd.

The nearest the pin prize went to Lyndon Jenkins, Jeff Williams, Jamie Gibson and Jason Beker, and the individual prizes went to Rhys Williams and Sarah Morris.

A total of £720 was raised and the Glamorgan Hunt would like to thank all the players for supporting the day, and sponsors Mr. A. Coleman, Mr. D. Lubin, Mr. R. Williams, Mr. David Jones and Caroline Barrett.

A big thank you also to Gareth Perkins for organising the event. NG

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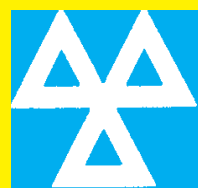


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Brave Barry denied win by St Joes

ON a breezy afternoon, Barry entertained league leaders St Josephs at the Reservoir Field, and as the teams ran on the field, it was obvious that the big physical advantage of their players would have a huge effect on the outcome of this game.

Opting to play with the wind and slope, the visitors made their intentions clear – to keep the game open at every opportunity in order to bring their Lomu-esque winger into play.

There were early penalties for both sides, with Barry coping well with the physical approach of the visitors, but slick close handling from the forwards undid the home defence and gave them the first score after 10 minutes.

When under pressure, the visitors were not slow to bend the rules, and by the 13th minute the teams had shared 12 penalties. Barry were warming to the task and began to play their own driving game, which was quite effective and unsettled the visitors, who conceded further penalties, allowing Barry to get on the scoreboard with a penalty from Lee.

There was to be no relief for the home side, however, as the visitors tore back into the attack, using their big forwards,

tying in the staunch defence in order to create space for their winger to cross unopposed, giving the visitors a 12-3 lead after 25 minutes.

The kick off was knocked on, giving Barry a rare opportunity to use their backs, which they did effectively and following a clever snipe by Lee and a forward drive, Provis was on hand to cross the line to score a well-worked try and reduce the deficit to two points after 30 minutes.

This score seemed to give the home side confidence; with the visitors on the back foot, and with a bit of luck they could have taken the lead after a fine movement from the backs nearly resulted in another try.

The home lineout was under constant pressure and the loss of two in succession caused Barry problems as halftime drew near, giving territorial advantage to the visitors, who, with more accuracy, would surely have scored despite the huge defensive effort being made by the home side.

Now playing up the slope and into the breeze, the visitors soon gave notice of their intention with effective forward driving and good line kicking putting even more pressure on an overworked defence, and after a penalty took them close to the Barry line, the

resulting lineout and clean possession allowed them to drive over the line to increase their lead to 19-10.

A change of tactic by Barry in using the wind to their advantage reaped huge benefits as high up and unders caused uncertainty in the visitors' defence.

First, they conceded a penalty to cut the lead, and this was soon followed by a towering kick which landed in space, enabling Provis to get his second try, duly converted by Lee, to give Barry a surprising 20-19 lead.

The visitors hit back with more forward driving and as Barry were penalised, a quick penalty gave them a try to restore their lead after 55 minutes.

Barry kept pegging away with their kicking game and one or two near misses could have brought rewards. The huge defensive efforts by the whole side were beginning to have a physical effect on the team and despite bringing on replacements, a number of walking wounded were having to play on.

It was no surprise that the visitors took advantage of this, and from a scrum close to the home line the visitors drove over to increase their lead to 29-20.

All credit to Barry as they launched attacks in the final minutes which, although not producing a score, gave a good indication of the spirit.

Perhaps not deserving of a win against a team that will be hard to beat this season, their undying efforts in defence probably warranted a losing bonus point.

Of concern for the coaches will be the injury count, which continues to mount, denying them the opportunity to field a settled side.

This Saturday Barry travel to Llandaff, kick off 2.30pm.

AJ

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ROVERS SHINE IN RHOOSE!

RHOOSE ROVERS were formed in 2012 by players that all either live or work in Rhoose.

They felt that there was a lack of opportunity to play for a Rhoose-based team, especially the younger players who were looking to move up to senior football.

GDL Solutions of Rhoose have kindly sponsored the team kit

for this season for which the team are thankful for their support. They will continue to play out of The Cambrian restaurant and bar in Rhoose, as they did last season; we would like to thank Nigel and Kim for their continued support.

Rhose Rovers have had a successful start to the season, having achieved five wins with just one defeat so far.

GL



Mixed week at Chess Club

THIS has been a busy week for the Barry Chess Club with all four of our teams playing on either Monday or Tuesday.

The results were mixed with one win, two draws and one defeat.

In the first division our two teams took on one another.

The Camelots were the home team, meaning that the Bosons had three games with the white pieces and the Camelots took white on the remaining two boards.

This should have given the advantage to the Bosons, who held a significant rating advantage on boards four and five, and an insignificant advantage on the other boards.

I am not quite sure how we managed it, but perhaps familiarity breeds contempt as all five boards were drawn. The most interesting result was the draw between Bill Hewitt and Lee Davis, in that Bill has never lost when representing Barry.

In division two, the Quarks belatedly started their campaign with an away match at North Cardiff. Both of these teams were promoted from division three last year, with the North Cardiff Cheetahs winning the division by a country mile and the Quarks being runners-up.

Last year, we lost heavily on both occasions against the Cheetahs and on seeing the two teams we knew we would do well to gain anything as they were rated over 200 points higher than us on the three lower boards.

It was only on the top board that we expected to gain anything. My game was the first to finish when my opponent surprisingly offered me a draw.

I am not sure if he wanted to watch the Champions League match on the TV or if I had bored him to sleep

with my negative play. In either case, I was only too happy to accept the draw.

The next three matches all went to North Cardiff, leaving only Rhys Steele to try and earn some respectability in the scoreline.

Rhys won an exchange and had a strong attack. However, rather than go for the jugular, Rhys went for a 'pretty' finish aiming to win using a sacrifice to open up the defence.

It took much sparring and unexpectedly careful defending from Vince Williams before Rhys eventually won to give us one and a half points from a possible five.

In division four, the Gambits travelled to Cardiff to take on the Cavaliers. With Cardiff being far and away the largest club, you never really know what sort of team they will be able to put out.

In this case they blooded two new unrated players, one on board one and one on board five.

We won three of the boards and lost the other two to win the match by a narrow margin.

This match saw our 'new boy' John Stephenson, pick up his first win in only his second league match.

The Barry Chess Club meets at 7.30pm each Monday at the West End Club, St Nicholas Road, Barry, CF62 6QY.

The club is open to players of all standards; whether you are interested in playing competitive chess or just the occasional friendly games.

New players are very welcome to just turn up on the night, but if you contact one of the club members through the website, we can explain what is happening on the night you have in mind, and arrange for someone to greet you on your arrival.

PHIL JONES

A tale of two halves as Dinas grab a share of the spoils

AFTER a poor first half when Dinas looked as though they would be overrun, they picked themselves up to put in a much better second period to gain a share of the points in this fixture against Chepstow Town.

Chepstow were straight on the attack from the first whistle, forcing an early corner which was cleared and also in the first five minutes Richard Lloyd got a shot away which was just wide.

At the other end a rare chance came Dinas' way when a good cross by Dimitri Fallas found Ryan Garland but his effort was also off target.

Chepstow were keeping the ball well, spreading the play from left to right and another chance came their way, the impressive Jason Thorn meeting a cross from the right and bringing a fine diving save from Dinas' keeper James Curtin. The same player then got the better of James Bloxham but he shot over the bar.

Dinas just couldn't seem to keep the ball and consequently their attacks kept breaking down.

Chepstow kept up the pressure and good inter-passing in the Dinas box by Rob and Jason Thorn gave the latter another chance but his effort was off target. The pressure eventually told when Jason Thorn was brought down in the box, and the referee had no hesitation in awarding a penalty which Chepstow captain Richard Sharratt fired into the corner of the net to take the lead on the half hour mark.

The best Dinas could

muster was a speculative shot from 40 yards by Carlos Indjai which sailed over the bar and the visitors added to their tally two minutes from halftime when Jason Thorn played Rob Thorn in to slot the ball neatly in the corner of the net for a deserved 2-0 lead at the interval.

Whatever player/manager Dave Penikett said to his team in the dressing room did the trick as they came out with much more purpose and determination, and pulled a goal back after just three minutes, when good inter-passing by Indjai and Fallas resulted in a cross by Fallas which found Ryan Garland at the far post, and he slotted the ball home neatly from seven yards.

Indjai then evaded two tackles to get a dangerous looking cross in which was eventually cleared by the defence

and he continued to give the Chepstow left back a torrid time with his pace.

The visitors were still dangerous and a mazy run across the Dinas box by Jason Thorn saw him lay the ball off to Richard Lloyd, whose low shot brought another top drawer save from Curtin who had a superb game.

Dinas then rang the

changes, bringing on Chris Mayhill and Ben Ah-Mun for Luke Swaffield and Fallas, and they soon made their presence felt, linking up well to set up Paul Dawes but his effort was blocked by a defender. At the other end Curtin had to be alert on a few occasions to thwart any Chepstow attacks.

With just five minutes to go Dinas finally got their second goal, a Dave Penikett free kick finding his brother Paul in a crowded Chepstow penalty area and he slotted to ball home for a share of the points which they just about deserved for their second half performance.

On September 28, Dinas travel to play Newport YMCA with a 2.30pm kick off where they will be looking for a better all-round performance.

Squad: 1 James Curtin, 2 James Marr, 3 Ryan Garland, 4 Dave Penikett, 5 James Bloxham, 6 Paul Penikett, 7 Luke Swaffield, 8 Paul Dawes (c), 9 Dimitri Fallas, 10 Carlos Indjai, 11 Connor Parsons, 12 Chris Mayhill, 14 Ben Ah-Mun, 15 Scott Muir, 16 Ronan Scott.

PK

RIGHT: Barry's Sion Jones recently turned out for Wales' rugby league team - see page 34 for the full story



Sully bridge club results

SATURDAY, September 14:

North/South - 1st Peter Millar/Trish Tracy 62.50; 2nd Hazel Craig/Peter Craig 55.95; 3rd Val Hetheridge/Anne Macdougall 53.87.

East/West - 1st Frank/Wendy Stott 67.56; 2nd Mary Cartwright/Pat Verdon 61.90; 3rd Sheila Kavanagh/Joan Thompson 53.87.

Monday, September 16: North/South - 1st Alan Jones/Carolyn Matthews 59.66; 2nd Peter Millar/Mark Roderick 59.66; 3rd Judy Collins/Beryl Marke 58.47.

East/West - 1st Anne John/John Pikoulis 59.79; 2nd Mair Colley/Chris Davies 56.12; 3rd Pam Sherman/Pat Verdon 55.77.

Wednesday, September 18: North/South - 1st Val Hetheridge/Brenda Shepherd 63.42; 2nd Sheila Kavanagh/Joan Thompson 58.68; 3rd Pat Evans/Roger Cradick 56.20.

East/West - 1st Peter Millar/Trish Tracy 75.45; 2nd Anne Macdougall/Anne Hilary Jones 59.46; 3rd Judith Owen/Helen Jordan 58.13.

EK